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C. A. Vice Presidents Support Peace in Region

PA3005042791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2031 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] San Jose, 28 May (ACAN-EFE)—At the end of the joint meeting that started in Costa Rica on 27 May and ended today, the vice presidents of Central America and Panama gave their support to the advances made in the pacification processes of El Salvador and Guatemala and praised the economic and political attainments of other countries in the isthmus.

In addition to highlighting the negotiations between the governments and guerrilla forces in El Salvador and Guatemala, the vice presidents underlined the democratic advances in Honduras, where the government has allowed the return of exiled citizens who fled the country in the eighties because they feared military repression.

The document approved by the vice presidents adds that there have been important advances in resolving Nicaragua's severe economic crisis with the agreements reached between President Violeta Chamorro's government and the international financial organizations.

The officials also emphasized Costa Rica's achievements in reducing its fiscal deficit and rationalizing the government's expenses, and praised Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's advances "in reestablishing a democratic regime that emphasizes human rights, economic recovery, and compliance with international agreements."

Among the points in the 13-point agreement reached by the vice presidents, the forum "urges the Nicaraguan Government" to call elections for Central American parliament deputies and, at the same time, suggests that Costa Rica should ratify the treaty which establishes the regional parliament, which was agreed upon by the Central American presidents in 1987.

Costa Rican Vice President German Serrano explained that although the Costa Rican Government agrees that the country should join the regional parliament, the decision is in the hands of the Legislative Assembly, where there are contrasting opinions on the subject.

Serrano explained that, according to Costa Rican law, if the parliament is summoned to extraordinary sessions, the executive branch will not be able to include the topic in the legislative agenda prior to the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan Vice President Gustavo Espina said that Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have initiated the Central American Parliament's sessions without Costa Rican and Nicaraguan participation.

The dignitaries also agreed to create a Central American technical commission to promote social development through the expansion of small and microbusinesses. They also expressed concern over the isthmus' progressive "and irreversible" environmental deterioration, and encouraged national authorities to adopt "immediate" measures.

Among other measures, the vice presidents proposed the creation of an environmental code and the creation and development of new plans for parks and reserved areas in each of the countries.

The vice presidents agreed that the forum they comprise has become a body of "support" for the meetings of the isthmian presidents, to whom they will propose measures and actions that will contribute to the development of the regional integration process.

The next Central America and Panama summit will be held in San Salvador in July of this year, and will examine the progress of the regional pacification and economic integration processes.

Haitian Officials Attend Human Rights Conference

FL2305194491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] A delegation of Haitian parliamentarians is visiting Santiago, Chile. The delegation is composed of two senators and one deputy who will remain in Chile from 22 to 26 May. The delegation's visit is in response to an invitation from the Chilean Chamber of Deputies to participate in the workshops aimed at setting the foundation for the Latin-American Interparliamentarian Commission on Human Rights.

Evans Paul, mayor of Port-au-Prince, and other municipal managers have been participating since Monday in a conference on garbage management in Philadelphia, in the United States. This meeting ends today, 22 May.

Cuba

Rodriguez Meets Visiting Ukrainian Leader

FL2905154691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with [name indistinct], member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Ukraine. The Ukrainian leader said that the main purpose for his visit was to personally see the care being received by the children from the Chernobyl accident and the veterans from Afghanistan. He added that he plans to fully disclose this Cuban gesture of friendship to the press of his Republic. Also, a detailed report will be made to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine.

Decoration Presented to Chile's Teitelboim

FL3005010491 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The Juan Marinelo Order was presented today to Chilean Volodia Teitelboim by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, a member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. This mark of recognition, granted by the Council of State, was given at the House of the Americas during a solemn ceremony that was also attended by Culture Minister Armando Hart. Upon presenting the order, House of the Americas Director Roberto Fernandez Retamar mentioned the outstanding work by the lawyer, writer, journalist, prominent leftist leader, and defender of our revolution.

Foreign Delegates To Attend Tourism Meet

FL2905172691 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The 12th International Tourism Convention, 1991, which will be attended by some 900 foreign delegates, will be held at Varadero Beach from 4 to 7 July. Two of the fundamental objectives of the Cuban delegation to the convention will be the promotion of tourism in our country and the finalization of contracts still pending for the next 12 months.

Spanish Business Delegation Seeks Trade Accords

FL2905160091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] A Spanish business delegation arrived in Cuba headed by Mr. Fernando Lozano, president of the Foreign Trade Commission of the Chamber of Commerce of Saragoza.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Hilda Prieto] The delegation, which consists of 20 businessmen representing 20 companies, was greeted by Julio Garcia Olivera, president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. The delegation will hold meetings until 4 June with representatives from more than 40 Cuban enterprises and institutions. They will discuss proposals for trade in important sectors like basic industry, agriculture, and construction. They will also be discussing economic alternatives for bilateral agreements, for example joint enterprises and co-op productions. Mr. Fernando Lozano professed to be a steadfast defender of bilateral trade relations.

[Lozano] The Chamber of Commerce of Saragoza is in charge of organizing the objectives for all of Spain. I think we must continuously maintain our commercial ties. I believe, and so does the rest of the delegation, that there should always be a Spanish business presence in Cuba.

[Prieto] Since 1985 the Cuban Chamber of Commerce has had in effect a cooperation agreement with Saragoza's Chamber of Commerce. [end recording]

* Citizens Urged To Report Illicit Activities

91CA0129A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 22 Mar 91 pp 26-29

[Interview with Raul Amaro Salup, president of the Supreme People's Tribunal, by Caridad Carrobello: "Who Are the Accomplices?"; place and date not given]

[Text] One hears constant comments about it: The criminals are starting to come out of the walls in Cuba, penalties are too soft, should it be only the authorities or the people as a whole who go after crime, and so on. Inasmuch as opinions range from one extreme to the other and not everyone thinks or acts alike, there are endless controversies. In order to shed light on these and other issues, I talked with Raul Amaro Salup, president of the Supreme People's Tribunal.

[Carrobello] People are now debating the causes of crime in Cuba. What do you think they are?

[Amaro Salup] Some blame crime on the shortages, while others say it is exclusively the lack of control, and still another group attributes it to the lack of vigilance. My own opinion is that the current causes are many and varied. Some crimes have specific motives while others have other causes. There are flaws in how we raise our children at home, how they are taught at school, and in our social work with the people. We must also take purely material factors into account, for they are closely linked with the lack of concern for our social property, the absence of strictness in economic controls, little collective action in handling antisocial forms of behavior that may turn into crime.

[Carrobello] That is a key point: ways in which society can fight these evils.

[Amaro Salup] Naturally. Rejection of crime cannot merely be a matter of words and rhetoric. Concrete action must be taken. Whenever there is a lack of discipline in the street or at school, if there is no collective repudiation of such attitudes, the individual in question gradually acquires a negative way of behaving

and acting, a specific form of conduct that in some cases goes so far as the commission of crimes. If we are permissive, the problem only grows.

As a newsman, you write articles and interviews on the subject, but it is not just a matter of doing your job. As a resident and citizen of this country, you also bear your share of responsibility for such matters.

[Carrobello] Would you classify me as an "anticrime agent"?

[Amaro Salup] Yes, as a matter of fact. An agent of the revolution.

[Carrobello] How am I to "operate"?

[Amaro Salup] If you are an active, federated CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] member and you do your worker's duty, you are doing your job. Workers' communities must have labor discipline, supervision of the means of work, care in handling containers and packages containing certain articles, attention to how people enter or leave production centers. In the neighborhoods and warehouses, it is important to have supervision of the distributors of supplies who could illegally sell consumer goods.

[Carrobello] Do you think that during other periods of the revolution, there was greater social condemnation of negative forms of behavior?

[Amaro Salup] I cannot answer categorically, but to give an example, our people are capable of backing the revolution by their participation in such tasks as defense, agriculture, construction, and work brigades. Perhaps we must work harder on how to take care of social property.

For example, a large part of the population uses the buses, but they mistreat them, do not pay their fares. Many people do not know where the resources we use to pay for their free education, medicine, hospitals, and the most complex operations come from. The other day I read that in Czechoslovakia a bone marrow transplant costs $35,000, but here it does not cost a cent. That free care comes from what we collect on the buses, from revenue that comes from society and is reinvested in ourselves. We are losing our perspective and it is necessary to perform our duties and meet our obligations to social property.

Not Decisive Factor

[Carrobello] During the special period, what is the effect of certain scarcities and material problems on the incidence of crime?

[Amaro Salup] It is only relative because meeting all needs 100 percent is not yet possible in any type of society and such problems exist everywhere.

Of course, I am not going to deny they exist. The lack of products and the difficulty of obtaining certain items legally does cause some people to steal resources, while others acquire such things to meet their needs. This is true, but it is not a decisive factor. During the special period, we have experienced complex situations, but no one can say that crime is out of hand.

[Carrobello] And yet, the man in the street thinks the opposite is true, that crime has increased. Certain press agencies also play on these opinions. Are there any arguments to contradict them?

[Amaro Salup] Arguments are found in the very situation in which we live. While there has been an increase in certain crimes such as those committed against patrimonial rights, other rates have remained stable and we have even made progress in fighting some more effectively. Such is the case with misappropriation.

In the case of aggravated theft, one can ascertain whether it increases or decreases based on reports from victims. But embezzlement is discovered when there is more auditing, more supervision, by going to a work center to conduct inspections and finding violators. This does not mean that these things have begun to occur only recently, but that they are now being detected. We are placing special emphasis on economic crimes and those committed against patrimonial rights.

Now there, one very important fact must be noted: Cuba has no bank robberies or organized rings that pull off holdups in the streets. Problems here undeniably have a qualitative significance, but according to one study done by the Attorney General's Office, compared with other countries—not only in the Third World, but in developed capitalist countries as well—Cuba is way down on the list in terms of criminal activity.

I recenily read a cable about an appearance by President Bush before over 600 American chiefs of police during which he said that more people were killed in a day in the cities of the United States than were lost in the fighting in Kuwait!

[Carrobello] Then what is the reason for rumors about the increase in crime?

[Amaro Salup] If press agencies emphasize crime in our country, it may be because we give the impression that we have such a problem, since for years there was a total lack of any information about such matters. Now, with Operacion Cascabel, we keep people informed about measures adopted, which is as it should be. If an incident occurs and information is received, one can properly evaluate what is going on.

[Carrobello] There has also been speculation about whether our legislation fosters an increase in crime. Do you think we are too paternalistic?

[Amaro Salup] Some Cuban laws are, as are some of our actions. This is true, for example, of labor legislation. I think that without casting a slur on the guarantees and rights of workers, for example, society should have adequate means to protect itself in cases of lack of discipline on the job. This does not mean that we will be inhuman, insensitive, arbitrary, or unfair.

More Effective Laws

[Carrobello] Some people think that the punishment in certain cases is so soft that it in no way modifies criminal behavior.

[Amaro Salup] I will give you one important piece of information: The number of recidivists and habitual recidivists that we have is not high. Furthermore, for those being punished for the first time and who are not truly criminals, prison is very important because one is cut off from the social environment. If the individual does not change his way of thinking, at least he is forced to think things over and this can be useful.

Naturally, it is impossible to change a twisted person's thinking in six months! In such cases, the function of punishment is purely retributive: If you commit a crime, you will pay for it.

A thorough study is now being made of our criminal legislation in terms of procedures in order to have more effective and more flexible laws, but without in any way undermining guarantees and rights. There has been a great deal of speculation and a great deal of talk. I think one remark made by our commander in chief at a party conference in Ciudad de la Habana sums it all up: If we need harsher laws, harsher laws we shall have!

Our code continues to prescribe the harshest penalties for serious, dangerous crimes. Recently, terms of 12, 15, or 20 years have been imposed. If, in the future, it is necessary to lengthen those terms for some form of criminal activity, we shall do so.

[Carrobello] For example?

[Amaro Salup] Drug trafficking and embezzlement. According to Instruction 137 of the Government Council of the People's Supreme Tribunal, a stricter criminal policy is established using the same existing legal instruments. But this does not exclude the possibility of adopting new changes if it is necessary to hand down harsher penalties for certain types of crime based on their social connotation.

[Carrobello] Along with the penalties for crime, have any decisions been made on how to eliminate the causes?

[Amaro Salup] CDR officials are working to step up revolutionary vigilance, trying to make it the same as when the organization was set up and we were capable of defending the revolution against enemy aggression. The plenary session of the National Council of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] has discussed revitalizing the workers guard as one means of prevention. The Ministry of Interior is improving the professionalism of its cadres, not only in order to attack the effects, but prevent negative acts as well. Our party is also emphasizing more political and ideological work on all levels.

The Attorney General's office and we, the courts, have adopted a series of measures being enforced in an attempt to contain crime. We know it is more important to prevent crime than to convict.

The Prevention and Social Welfare Committees are working very intensely and very good results can already be seen in Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus.

[Carrobello] When will crime be completely contained?

[Amaro Salup] Ideological work having to do with ethical training and the formation of correct principles requires more time. How many people now buy items from illegal sources knowing very well they were stolen or misappropriated?

Our grandparents' expression of "poor but honest" is uttered by families incapable of stealing or diverting social property. And yet, there are others whose children come home from nursery school with objects that do not belong to them and do not even take the trouble to find out where they came from, to scold the child and make him return it to the rightful owner. We have the case of children who buy things without anyone at home wondering where they got the money!

Carelessness and family indifference contribute to the commission of crimes. Examples abound in re-education centers for minors and our prisons. Honesty should begin in the cradle and much remains to be done in this area.

If every individual behaves properly in terms of social and work responsibilities and toward his own family, crime will drop. I have absolutely no doubt about this.

*** Specialists, Teachers To Leave Angola**

91P40280B

[Editorial Report] Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese of 24 April 1991 reports on page 3 that 23 specialists in medicine and education will return to Cuba after 15 years of internationalist service in Benguela Province. According to the article, the Benguela health and education sector will replace them with Bulgarian and Vietnamese specialists. Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese of 8 May 1991 reports on page 2 that eight Cubans who have been teaching at the 'Youth in Struggle' High School were awarded the internationalist worker medal and will return this month to Cuba. Angolan, not foreign, teachers will take their places.

*** Angolan Students Complete Studies, Return Home**

91P40280A

[Editorial Report] Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese of 1 May 1991 reports on page 3 that 500 Angolan high school students who completed their studies will be returning to Luanda. At least 450 of the remaining 6,000 students on the Isle of Youth will also return to Angola during June and July for vacation. Special flights between Havana and Luanda have been arranged to transport the returning students. According to the article, the Cuban Government has requested that all students who have completed their studies return to their respective countries before the start of the Pan American games in August.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Ramphal Heartened by 'United Call' for Union

FL2805141891 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The West Indian Commission has met in Barbados for consultations on regional union. Commission chairman Sir Shridath Ramphal said yesterday the Commission is heartened by what he termed a united call for some form of union. The group's members were preparing a report for presentation to the Caricom Heads of Government. That's in July in St. Kitts.

Dominica Adds New Dimensions

FL2905181591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1654 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 29, CANA—The West Indian Commission Wednesday ended the Dominica leg of consultations on the future of Caribbean integration, saying new dimensions were given to issues of concern in the region.

'(Dominicans) have confirmed some of what we have heard before, but what is new are the particular slants and dimensions of some of the issues that we have picked up here,' Commission member Reverend Alan Kirton told reporters. Kirton said press freedom, governance, and administration of justice were some of the regional concerns reinforced and, in cases, expanded in submissions during the three-day Dominica consultations, the 11th leg of a regional sweep by the Commission. He said discussion on press freedom produced a feeling of 'tangible need', and concern about governance among youths, politicians, and others was 'quite palpable.'

On the administration of justice, and specifically, the issue of a regional appeal court, Kirton said there were some new ideas. He cited a suggestion of a Commonwealth court of appeal drawing jurists from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean on a rotating basis. The court would be adopted instead of a Caribbean court of appeal that might be considered financially or administratively dependent on governments.

'These are new ideas and new slants on issues that are already on our agenda,' Kirton added.

The Commission, working on a mandate from the Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] Heads of Government, will complete its regional consultations with visits to Belize and the Bahamas. The Commission expects to make a progress report to the Caricom summit meeting in St. Kitts and Nevis in July.

A public hearing in Dominica Tuesday evening received submissions on an independent court for the region, as well as a common policy towards graduates of Cuban training institutions, and a need for greater import substitution. The meeting also heard a call for Caricom to adopt procedures providing for member states which renege on joint decisions to be disciplined, and possibly expelled. Submissions also urged the adoption of a system of by-elections for cases in which parliamentarians defect from their original parties. Dominicans also urged the inclusion of the disabled in development planning, and the independence of the remaining colonies in the region as a necessary step towards deeper integration.

'Today we have British colonialism in the Caribbean, we have French colonialism, we have Dutch colonialism—how can we seek to integrate with Montserrat that flies the Union Jack,' one speaker queried. The Commission was urged to encourage Caribbean governments to use the United Nations Decolonisation Committee to press for the independence of the rest of the region.

Other issues raised included a need for a common currency for the region, and a need to consider subsidised overseas medical treatment for persons who cannot afford such treatment or who do not have medical insurance.

Urges Upgrade of Caricom Secretariat

FL2905144391 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The West Indian Commission has held another meeting, this time in Dominica, on ways to bring about closer Caribbean integration. One recommendation made to the Commission yesterday by the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce concerns the strengthening of the Caricom secretariat. The Association believes the secretariat should be upgraded to the status of the European Commission. Opposition parties and labor leaders also addressed the Commission.

Freedom of Press 'Urgent Priority'

FL2805163091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 27, CANA—Dominican journalists called Monday for the privatization of most state-owned Caribbean media and an end to governmental interference in news and current affairs productions.

Making a submission to the West Indian Commission on behalf of the Dominica Media Workers Association, journalist Lennox Linton said the regional media needed an infusion of private capital and entrepreneurial talent 'so that (they) can be reconstructed along the lines of economic viability and no-nonsense product development.'

But first, he said, 'Governments need to fix up those socialist-type laws and public sector policies in their separate territories, which serve as disincentives to private citizens willing to invest in media development.'

Urging the Commission to treat liberalization of the Caribbean media as an urgent priority, Linton said there was also need to ensure that 'government involvement in news and current affairs decision-making, except within the typical government information system, must be unconditionally discontinued.'

He called for training of journalists to be emphasized and a re-defining of the roles and responsibilites of media managers. Too many media bosses were bogged down by routine administrative detail with little time for forward planning, he said.

'The need to properly position the regional media must be carefully understood and promptly acted on. Only when this is done will we be really on the road to the long-term global positioning of the West Indian diaspora for the greatest benefit of us all,' Linton told the Commissioners who began public hearings here Monday.

The Commission, chaired by former Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal, is canvassing regional opinion on the future of the integration movement. They will submit findings and recommendations to Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments next year.

The Dominican media submission lauded the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) and Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) as 'good examples of media systems where journalistic competence and creative talent can flower on a regional level, to our collective benefit.'

But the praise for the two regional media systems was accompanied by warnings that they were in danger of losing their way for reasons including 'the generally unhealthy media support environment throughout the region, where colleague journalists find it difficult, and sometimes impossible, to operate through lack of training, inadequate job security, or unmanageable political interference.'

The influence of foreign information and entertainment programmes was also highlighted as another threat to CANA and CBU, as well as 'the paucity of media management talent available to systems in the area, largely on account of the politicization of selection policy.'

Dominican journalists said another threat to CANA and CBU was the failure of regional governments to indicate in 'thoughts, words, deeds, and legislation, that the media, too, is a worthwhile area for the free enterprise activities of private interests without let or hindrance.'

Business, Labor Groups Canvassed

FL2305114391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2111 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 22, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] must establish a single market, pursue political integration, and consider relocating its secretariat from Georgetown, according to the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC). The regional private sector body Tuesday submitted a nine-point proposal, and a study on Caribbean monetary union in a presentation to the West Indian Commission, now canvassing Barbadian views on the integration movement as part of a regional sweep.

Labour organisations, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Non-Governmental Caribbean Policy Unit, and media representatives were among those appearing before the commission on the first day of the three-day consultation here.

"Internally, Caricom reform must go boldly for a Caricom single market and economy, if practicable before the end of 1993, with unrestricted movement of capital, skills, and eligible goods and services on a duty-free basis," CAIC executive director Pat Thompson told the commission. He also suggested that regional governments concentrate on providing physical and social infrastructure, and that the region constantly review its prospects for international competitiveness.

The Caricom secretariat needs to be restructured to give it stronger powers, and should be relocated from Georgetown, where economic problems and the state of telecommunications and other services discourage skilled personnel, or impede their work when they are actually recruited, the CAIC submitted.

"Caricom governments should be encouraged to commit to and work towards as deep a degree of political integration across the region as might prove ultimately feasible," CAIC said.

"Such political integration will assist the process of economic integration and may have wider support among the populations of Caricom countries than many of the governments presently appear to believe," the private sector body said.

CDB President Sir Neville Nichols told the commission that analysis of 1973-1989 trade and travel data provides "convincing evidence that the existence of Caricom made a considerable difference to our patters of trade and travel." But the CDB president suggested that there might now be a need for a review of articles in the Treaty of Chaguaramas Treaty establishing the community.

"One of the things your commission should consider is what features of the treaty have been rendered obsolete by those external factors that began to intensify at about the same time Caricom was coming into existence," he said referring later to increasing scarcity of development funds as an example.

Trade union representatives made wide-ranging recommendations on the scope for regional action on working class issues, submitted that the goal of integration is a primary step for increasing the wellbeing of regional people. Caribbean Confederation of Labour (CCL) President Leroy Trotman supported the establishment of free movement of labour in a gradual way, free movement of capital, and a common currency, which he described as "controversial" but necessary for "any serious development in the region."

Trotman captured elements of presentations by Barbados Workers Union representative Robert Morris, and other union leaders, with a proposal for "a social charter" for the Caribbean Community. This charter would address the integration and harmonisation of labour

laws, establishment of minimum levels of pay, social security, and a "social adjustment fund."

Joan French, representing the Caribbean Policy Unit (CPU) set up by regional non-governmental organisations, made a strong submission on the need for the community to take consideration of social and cultural concerns, instead of pursuing actions based largely on economic criteria. "You can have economic development without having people's development," she warned.

Charging that structural adjustment is being seen in the region as the only alternative, she said there has been no regional consideration of the impact on people of policies of devaluation, privatisation in health and education among other areas, wider taxation, and the use of a development strategy based on cheap labour. She said there must be consultation with the people on the matter and the proposal of alternatives: "If we look at what the people are doing (in creative responses to the adjustment policies) we can find some of the clues."

Agriculture Meetings Begin in St. Lucia 29 May

FL2905163491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1443 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 29, CANA—A series of meetings on Caribbean agriculture opens here Thursday, the St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture said. The meetings, to run until June 7, include the annual conference of Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] Agriculture ministers on June 3, and an international donors conference on June 6-7 on financing regional agricultural development.

The latter is being sponsored by the Caricom secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

According to the St. Lucia Agriculture Ministry, a 'wide variety of technical assistance bodies and donor agencies from around the world, which have an interest in enhancing the continued development of Caribbean agriculture and the strengthening of food security objectives for the region,' will participate in the donors conference.

The series of meetings begins Thursday with a meeting of chief veterinary officers from the region. They will review the implementation of draft animal health legislation, discussed at the last meeting of the Caricom Agriculture ministers. A presentation will be made at the meeting by an Argentine delegation on the South American republic's interest for trade in selected meat products with Caricom countries.

'Similarly, the interest of the United Kingdom in the area will also be discussed,' sources close to the meeting said. Regional agricultural planners will meet ahead of the ministerial conference, which will be presented with a global overview and analysis of developments in agriculture. The ministers will also consider a number of reports including one on the restructuring of agricultural training at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The ministers are expected to discuss the Common External Tariff (CET) since its introduction in some Caribbean countries has given rise to complaints by agro-processors that they can only get raw material supplies from regional producers in limited quantities. The Caricom secretariat has initiated a study into the problem, and the report will be considered at the meeting.

'In addition to this, the impact of non-tariff barriers to trade in primary agricultural commodities will be examined,' the St. Lucia Agriculture Ministry statement said. The ministers will review the performance of specific commodity and other sectors, with fisheries and forestry receiving particular attention.

Applications from the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Mexico, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico for observer status on the Caricom standing committee of Agriculture ministers will also be discussed.

Caricom attorneys general will meet with the Agriculture ministers in connection with the proposed animal health legislation and a proposed inter-governmental Caricom agreement providing for member states to fish in each other's territorial waters.

Antigua To Host RSS Military Exercises

FL2305141691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1328 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, May 23, CANA—The U.S. Coast Guard and more than 500 Caribbean soldiers and paramilitary personnel will take part in joint military exercises next month under the aegis of the Regional Security System (RSS), a defence pact involving Barbados and independent countries of the seven- nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The Antigua Defence Force said the exercises, codenamed Tradewinds 91, will be staged here, in Dominica and in Puerto Rico. RSS signatories—Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Grenada—will take part in the exercises.

Amid current discussions on the formation of a defence pact embracing the entire Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market], there will be participation also by the Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana Defences Forces and the Bahamas Coast Guard.

The first phase of the exercises will take place in the waters around participating countries and will involve coast guard and marine police units and U.S. Coast Guard ships. The second stage will be held in Antigua and Barbuda from June 3-8 "to practice procedures that would be followed in the event of an earthquake striking an island." Part three will take place in Puerto Rico from June 8-12 and the final phase in Dominica from June 22-28.

Antigua and Barbuda

European Community Provides Human Resource Funds

FL2905151891 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The European Community has provided a major grant to Antigua and Barbuda. $6 million will be in the form of direct grants, while $2 million will be in the form of risk capital, to be managed by the European Investment Bank. Funds will be concentrated on human resource training in Antigua and Barbuda.

Bahamas

Human Rights Movement on Illegal Immigrants

FL2905172591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 29, CANA—The Bahamas human rights movement will hold an open forum next month to draft a national viewpoint on the illegal immigrant problem facing the country.

As of July 10—18 years after independence—the Bahamian Constitution provides that children born in the country of non-Bahamian parents will be entitled to citizenship, subject to certain clauses. This means that hundreds, possibly thousands, of people of Haitian origin should be considered for citizenship.

A sample Immigration Department study some time ago pegged the illegal Haitian population at 50,000, or about 20 percent of the Bahamian population.

'We are very concerned about the illegal immigrant problem. We need to have a rational, consistent national policy. We don't want a hysterical reaction,' said Dr. John Lunn, president of the New Providence Human Rights Association.

He suggested that the Bahamas Government should approach the United States Government and the United Nations for help in the matter. Since the U.S. and Bahamas have cooperated so well in the drug war, Lunn saw no reason why the U.S. Government could not help in turning back boatloads of illegal immigrants, or help house them on an island facility, until they could be repatriated. Other refugees, like the Vietnamese and the Kurds, have received help from the international community.

'When it comes to the Haitians, everybody's back is turned,' one observer commented. Lunn said people who are entitled to citizenship under the Constitution should become citizens. 'There is no point in having a Constitution if we are not going to stick with it,' he said.

The Constitution provides that a person born in the Bahamas of non-Bahamian parents after July 10, 1973, shall be entitled, upon making application at 18 years or within 12 months thereafter, to citizenship, provided the applicant renounces citizenship of any other country.

However, any application for citizenship shall be subject to such exceptions or qualifications as may be prescribed 'in the interests of national security or public policy.' Under the Bahamas Nationality Act, the minister may refuse an application if, among other things, for any sufficient reason of public policy, he is satisfied that the applicant, not being the dependent of a Bahamian citizen, has not sufficient means to maintain himself and is likely to become a public charge.

Lunn said it has been suggested that 20 percent of the Bahamian population is comprised of illegal immigrants. This is an incredible figure, he noted, and one which is bound to cause dislocation in the social and economic structure, and conflict.

'The resources of the Bahamas are too small to deal with the problem as a whole,' said Lunn. He emphasised that illegal immigrants must be treated humanely.

Leaders from the religious, financial and human rights sectors of the community are expected to participate in the national forum, scheduled for June 25.

Former deputy speaker of the House of Assembly, Henry Bowen, said that the Haitian problem has ceased to be a government problem.

'It is now a Bahamian people's dilemma,' he said. 'Illegal immigrants who have established whole villages in certain areas of New Providence tell only part of the story. The other side of the picture is displayed by the hundreds...Yes, thousands of children of Haitian origin born in the Bahamas who, in some cases, form the majority of students in Ministry of Education schools.'

'And then there are the adults of Haitian origin who have quietly immersed themselves into the Bahamian mainstream. They can be found in the professions, in business, in the civil service, and in the defence force and in the police force,' said Bowen. No matter how you cut the cake, it does not matter what the Constitution says, these people are a fact of Bahamian life and they are in the Bahamas here to stay, he said.

Bowen said it is too late to start talking about repatriating illegal Haitians. The numbers have swollen too large and the problem is now out of control, he said. Bowen, a businessman, has pegged the Haitian population at 60,000.

Only last week, George Smith, an MP in the ruling PLP party, renewed his call for a national symposium to look into the Haitian dilemma. Church leaders have made similar calls over the years, which have gone unheeded. Although the Haitian problem has been growing for many years and has led to tension in some communities, particularly in Abaco, there has been no consistent policy to deal with the problem.

Smith is of the opinion that the citizenship entitlement as provided by the Constitution is not discretionary. However, he said that it is subject to such exceptions or disqualifications which are set out in the Bahamas Nationality Act.

Barbados

Export Focus for Manufacturing Recommended

FL3005011591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2218 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 29, CANA—The Barbados Government was urged Wednesday to shift the focus of its manufacturing incentives away from import substitution towards exports. The recommendation was contained in a report submitted to government by British consultants hired to analyse causes for recent reverses in local manufacturing and to propose ways of enhancing the competitiveness of the sector.

The 25-member team of consultants spent the last 18 months on the study, and their final report was presented to State Minister for Finance Harold Blackman Wednesday. The chief economic analyst, Professor Christopher Milner, said the study found a strong anti-export bias in the structure of existing manufacturing incentives.

Barbados, like most developing countries which pursued economic modernization through a shift from traditional agriculture to industry, built up manfacturing through a policy of import substitution. Milner said the Barbados manufacturing was at the stage where further growth was only possible through exports. He said a readjustment of incentives to emphasize exports was therefore necessary. "Our judgement, based upon systematic analysis to measure the effects of these various instruments, suggests that there is a very strong bias in favour of producing for the local market," he said.

"Significantly higher subsidies apply to producing for the local market than apply for producing for export markets and so our policy recommendations were geared very much towards analysing the way in which those relative incentives could be re-adjusted."

Milner added, "We are not talking about dismantling the existing legislation; we are mainly trying to say ways in which over a period of time that incentive structure could be realigned in favour of producing for the export market rather than the domestic market."

The study recommended a five-year period for the phasing in of the adjustments. Blackman said government planned to consult private and public sector agencies on the implementation of the report.

Dominican Republic

'Crisis' in Electrical Service Reportedly Worsens

FL2205134091 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The energy crisis in the Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE] continues to worsen with blackouts surpassing 18 hours a day despite the fact that the CDE administration had said that the situation would improve.

According to information given to the Cadena de Noticias, electrical production at the CDE is now below 500,000 kilowatts. The most important units, Itabo 1, Jaina 3, and Falconbridge, continue to be offline. Yesterday, 20 May [as heard], the CDE administration announced that the units would be brought on line again. Engineer Ramon Peres Martinez informed that the new gas turbine installation in the Las Minas sector could be fired up by the end of this week.

In the last few days electrical service has deteriorated due to the mechanical failures of the principle energy units.

* Exports to Great Britain Up 58 Percent

91CA0123C Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Apr 91 p 4-D

[Text] Dominican exports to Great Britain rose by approximately 58.6 percent last year, from $21.5 million in 1989 to $34 million in 1990.

The President of the Dominican Republic British Chamber of Commerce, Fernando Gonzalez Nicolas, indicated that these exports consisted mainly of fruits, vegetables, tobacco, coffee, minerals, cigars, and other manufactured products.

He said present indicators clearly justify projections of a sustained rise in Dominican exports for 1991 and succeeding years, mainly in fruits, vegetables, and goods manufactured in industrial free-trade zones.

These growth projections are made possible, he said, by the incentives the Dominican Republic enjoys in the European Economic Community [EEC] through the Lome Agreement, which became effective on 1 March 1990.

Based on this agreement, Dominican products will not pay customs duty on the British market and on the markets of the other West European markets.

"In 1990, according to England, the Dominican Republic continued as one of the Caribbean countries posting the most growth in its exports to Great Britain," said Gonzalez Nicolas.

He indicated that while it increased its exports, the Dominican Republic reduced its imports from England in 1990 by approximately 17 percent with respect to 1989.

This reduction, he said, was part of the general slowing of Dominican Republic imports in 1990.

Last year, the Dominican Republic's imports from Great Britain totaled $38.3 million, or some $7.7 million less than in 1989.

The president of the Dominican Republic British Chamber of Commerce said that these imports consisted mainly of agrochemicals, machinery, and other industrial goods.

* Rise in Free Trade Zones' Earnings Reported

91CA0123B Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 22 Apr 91 p 1-D

[Article by Geraldino Gonzalez]

[Text] The executive secretary of the Free-Trade Zones Association, lawyer Jose Miguel Ceron, said yesterday that this sector is exporting some $600 million annually, and that last year it brought some $200 million into the Central Bank.

Ceron added that the current situation of the free-trade zones represents a 360-degree turnaround with respect to that of six months ago.

"The energy situation has improved notably, and this has given the free-trade zones a decided boost," said the business executive.

The current exchange rate is also competitive and conducive to growth in this sector, he added.

He indicated that if the present stability of the sector continues for at least another six months, the country may well recover its leadership in the region.

Were this situation to continue unabated, the country's free-trade zones would be employing between 25,000 and 40,000 new employes within two or three years, he said.

Ceron also expressed his agreement with respect to the signing of an accord with the IMF. In his view, this would help bring fresh monetary resources into the national economy.

The general secretary of the Free-trade Zones Association was interviewed on the "Asi Va Nuestro Pueblo" program produced for Dominican Radio and Television by journalists Tomas Aquino Mendez and Viviano de Leon.

Ceron also said that the free-trade zones have benefited from the political stability the country is presently enjoying.

* FEDOCA Forecasts 'Good' Sugar Harvest

91CA0123A Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 22 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The President of the Dominican Federation of Farmers [FEDOCA], Dr. Nicolas Casasnovas, predicted yesterday that the State Sugar Council [CEA] sugar harvest this year (1990-1991) will produce from 350,000 to 360,000 tons of sugar. This will include some 60,000 tons of refined sugar.

Dr. Casasnovas's forecast was based on the milling and production figures reported up to and including last Friday. He said that, based on these figures, the current harvest will be better than the previous one, when state sugar production totaled 305,000 tons.

He predicted that the harvest will be plentiful and that only an unforeseen setback could change the present outlook. Thus far, he said, according to the latest figures on the harvest, which are compiled daily by the CEA's Agricultural Management staff, milling has been under way approximately 130 days and has produced 272,248 tons of sugar with a purity of 95.

He said that the eight operational state-owned sugar mills have been milling at an overall average rate of 21,068 tons of sugarcane daily, and have attained yields averaging as high as 8.64 percent.

FEDOCA's president estimates that at these average rates of production, the CEA can produce a total of 335,000 tons of sugar this year, to which will be added, he said, the 26,000 tons of raw sugar to be produced by Montellano and Amistad.

Haina has milled 4,421 tons of cane per day during 77 days of harvest, and posted a production of 60,000 tons of sugar.

Barahona, milling an average of 20,000 tons of cane a day for the same number of days as Haina, has produced 22,000 tons of sugar. Consuelo has milled 2,771 tons of cane a day, on average, over 92 days of harvest, and has produced 22,000 tons of sugar.

Boca Chica, milling approximately 2,700 tons of cane a day, over a period of 106 working days, has produced a total of 24,800 tons of sugar.

Ozama, with an average milling rate of 2,500 tons of cane a day, has produced 24,300 tons of sugar in 126 working days, and Santa Fe, with an average milling rate of 1,836 tons of cane daily, has produced 16,000 tons of sugar in 104 days of harvest.

Quisqueya, with a daily milling average of 1,973 tons of sugarcane, over a period of 128 days of harvest, has produced a total of 20,060 tons of sugar.

To date, Porvenir has milled 1,809 tons of cane daily, on average, producing 14,237 tons of raw sugar plus 28,343 tons of refined sugar.

Grenada

NNP Opposes Sale of Electric Company

FL2905220391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2141 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 29, CANA—The opposition New National Party (NNP) Wednesday called on the government not to sell the state electricity company, Grenlec, to the British-owned Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). "The CDC ran our electricity company for 16 years during the colonial times, milked it and left it in a terrible state with little equipment," the party led by former communications minister Dr Keith Mitchell said in a statement.

It was because of this reason, the NNP said, that the former People's Revolutionary Government (PRG)

negotiated with the CDC and acquired the company for one dollar. The PRG held power from 1979 to 1983. "In other words, the CDC was admitting then that the company was in a terrible state, hence their acceptance of just a one-dollar payment."

"Grenadians must stand up now and oppose this sinister attempt to quietly sell our electricity company. Tomorrow it will be too late," the NNP said.

The government sent a delegation to St Lucia last month to look at the CDC involvement in that country's electricity sector. However, the delegation gave no details on government plans for the sale of the local company.

Haiti

Aristide Receives Congressional Delegation

FL2805184891 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1430 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] A U.S.Congressional commission, which arrived in Port-au-Prince on 23 May, will meet with the president of the Republic, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, this morning at the National Palace. The American congressmen will explore issues relating to Haitian-American cooperation.

The commission will also meet with the members of the legislative corps during the day. The American parliamentarians who came to investigate the hunger problem in the northwestern section of the country will depart on 26 May.

Latin American Human Rights Commission To Meet

FL2805145791 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Haiti has been chosen as the site of the first meeting of the newly formed Latin American Interparliamentary Human Rights Commission. It will be held at the end of the year. The organization was established at a weekend meeting in Santiago, Chile, by parliamentarians from a number of countries.

Senate Adjourns Plenary Sessions Until 10 Jun

FL2805181691 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1430 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The plenary sessions of the Senate will be provisionally adjourned on 28 May, to be resumed on 10 June. The Senate explains in a communique that this decision was made in accordance with the provisions of Article 95-2 of the Constitution, and in view of the necessity to prompt certain commissions to finish emergency business. These commissions will use the room reserved for debates to carry out their responsibilities.

Senatorial Commission, Preval Meet on Budget

FL2805184491 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1430 24 May 91

[Text] A senatorial commission met 23 May with Prime Minister Rene Preval for an examination of the national budget. The head of government advised the senators of his intention to revise the budget. The parliamentarians suggested that Prime Minister Preval wait until the end of the fiscal year to make any changes to the budget.

FNCD Warns Against Antigovernment Behavior

FL2805190691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] A few days after three grassroots organizations of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] wrote to the president of the country advising him that they find his language similar to that of former Haitian dictators, FNCD spokesmen asked militants of these political groups to exert self-discipline, taking no initiative without prior agreement of the coordinating committee. Otherwise, the party will take no responsibility for their actions, the spokesmen say.

It was at the beginning of the past week that the three FNCD grassroots organizations sent their letter to President Aristide, asking him to strive to remain a witness to the truth, so that reactionary bourgeoisie do not again take control of the country. Members signing the letter were: Andre Charlier, for the Haitian National Democratic and Progressive Party [PNDPH], headed by Senator Turneb Delpe; Romana Tranquille and Marcel Baptiste for the National People's Front; and Cadet Alerte for KOREKA [expansion unknown]. The letter clarifying the situation was signed by Victor Benoit of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul of the Confederation for Democratic Unity, and Western Senator Turneb Delpe of PNDPH.

Unemployment Protestors End Hunger Strike

FL2905192891 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Seven militants from an organization called Association of Mandated Delegates for the 16 December Elections [ADMED] ended a hunger strike yesterday which they had begun last Saturday in the former Hotel Bellevue in Pacot. With this action, the youths intended to draw the attention of the head of state to themselves, unemployed since the beginning of the Avalanche government.

Last evening, a member of the president's private secretariat, Dr. Gerard Bleau, visited the strikers. One of them was received at the National Palace. Following negotiations which were not revealed to the media, the strikers put an end to their movement.

Papaye Peasant Movement Splinter Groups Meet

FL2805173591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 May 91

[Excerpts] Peasant organizations in the Central Plateau and splinter groups of the Papaye Peasant Movement [MPP], intend to organize a congress. These organizations met with the press yesterday at the Holiday Inn.

[Begin reporter Marcus recording] It was after the crisis which shook the Papaye Peasant Movement last year that the Peasant Unity Movement [TAMP] was born in Hinche, in the Central Plateau. This organization, which will hold its first congress on May 29, stems from 23 assemblies, totaling 2,511 members, who decided to create the Movement.

During the press conference at the Holiday Inn, the Movement introduced itself to the nation and invited popular organizations to attend its first general assembly. [passage omitted]

The objective of the TAMP general assembly is to present the structure of the movement, its representatives, and its demands. A splinter branch of the MPP, TAMP intends to gather close to 5,000 people for its first general assembly on May 29. [end recording]

St. Lucia

Compton on Implications of U.S.-Mexico Trade

FL2705202991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1755 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 27, CANA—St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton is pushing for the forthcoming Caricom [Caribbean Community] summit to discuss the implications of U.S.- Canada-Mexico free trade for the Commonwealth Caribbean. Compton, in a Government Information Service (GIS) radio interview, said the free trade zone being formed by the three countries spelt hardship for Caricom countries. "The Caribbean is going to suffer because Mexico has too many advantages over and above the Caribbean. They (Mexico) are dealing in the same products we are trying to attract," he said.

"Unless there is a substantial amount of refinement of this Canada-United States-Mexico free trade area, I think the Caribbean will be the loser." He said Mexico's advantages over the Caribbean in relation to U.S. investment included lower labour costs, a common border, and a low value currency.

Compton said Caricom leaders, at the annual summit in St Kitts in July, should get their technocrats to work out proposals to help the region offset the adverse implications of North American-Mexico free trade. In the 25-minute interview, Compton again warned that St Lucia would be reluctant to implement the Caribbean Common External Tariff (CET) unless some of St Lucia's Caricom partners changed their attitude on some issues.

He said the CET was designed to give the industrialised countries of the Caribbean an opportunity for further industralisation, and lamented the fact that St Lucia was experiencing problems getting a market for its coconut oil products. Compton also referred to the problems in acquiring more flights into St Lucia for the tourist industry, a reference to Barbados' opposition to aspects of a proposed Caricom multilateral air services agreement with Britain.

"These matters have got to be cleared because St Lucia cannot always be giving ... and getting nothing in return. This is a matter to be brought up at the heads of government meeting ... and unless St Lucia's concerns are clarified, our position will be that the legislation (CET) will be put on hold," Compton said.

Minister Urges Haiti To Devise Development Plan

FL2305135891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1310 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 23, CANA—St. Lucian Foreign Minister Neville Cenac has urged Haiti to come up with a blueprint for development, amid concerns the absence of such a plan might be holding up inflows of much needed foreign aid.

"I believe that if the government comes up with a plan showing exactly what its priorities are and it shows it is ready to work, everybody would help Haiti," Cenac told reporters.

"A government like Haiti does not even know what its priorities are. One cannot expect in a few days one would see the sun shining brightly on Haiti," he added.

Cenac's comments followed a report by the Barbados-based Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) that rhetoric from Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide may jeopardise the country's chances of attracting international assistance. Aristide, a firebrand former Catholic priest, was voted into office last December in an election observed by regional and international organisations, including the CCC.

Cenac said it would be unfair not to give Aristide a chance. "I think it's much too early.... for us to see things happen quickly," he said, restating the Caribbean Community (Caricom) position of assisting Haiti find financial and technical support. Cenac said the biggest problem confronting Haiti was its high unemployment rate, put at around 70 percent.

Cenac said he was certain Caricom would look "favourably" at Haiti's request for membership in the 13-nation economic grouping whenever it submits an application. Haiti at present has observer status on some Caricom bodies.

Ruling Party Denies Predictions of Close Contest

FL2805155491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1614 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 27, CANA—The ruling United Workers Party (UWP) is predicting a 'comfortable' victory at forthcoming general elections, due no later than July next year.

'I think we will get a comfortable majority,' chairman Henry Giraudy said in an interview with the VOICE newspaper. Giraudy brushed aside suggestions that the polls, which the opposition political parties believe will be held before July, will be a close affair, even perhaps tilting towards the St. Lucia Labour Party

'Well that's now. The Labour Party has been on the hustings...They have been heard, we have not been heard. But it's early days for people to be talking in such terms...I do not see why we should lose the next elections. To express it positively, I don't see Labour winning it. I see us positively winning the next elections,' Giraudy said.

In 1987, the UWP won just a slender one-seat majority in two elections called within a month. The UWP ended up with nine seats against for the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP). However, the government's majority increased after Neville Cenac, the foreign minister, crossed the floor.

Meanwhile, the St. Lucia Labour Party has intensified its political campaign with the launching of yet another candidate for the polls. Lawyer Wilkinson Larcher will contest the Castries Northeast seat, currently held by the Stephenson King, the minister for Community Development, Sports and Women's Affairs.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Human Rights Group Urges Repeal of Criminal Code

FL2305210591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1902 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 23, CANA—The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association has called for the repeal of the country's almost three year-old criminal code. President Victor Cuffy said the legislation contravenes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which St. Vincent is a signatory.

The Conventions guarantee protection from cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or torture, and from capital punishment or life imprisonment from crimes committed by persons under 18 years of age. St. Vincent's criminal code permits the death penalty to be applied to persons over 16 years and under 18 years at the time of commission of the crime.

'We are not saying here that we are calling for the death penalty to be removed completely, we are saying that we want the death penalty to be removed for children,' Cuffy told participants at a symposium on The Rights of the Child.

The Association has also called on the government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and suggested the establisment of an independent national commission to 'review the situation of children, with a view to pinpointing the problems which need to be tackled in realising the rights of children as set out in the Convention.'

The Association has, however, taken issue with Article 38 of the Convention which it says permits persons aged 15 years to take part in armed conflicts. Cuffy said this was a weak area of the Convention which needs to be reviewed.

'Since the Convention has defined a child as any human being under the age of 18 years, then it is condemning children 15, 16 and 17 years to fight wars,' he said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Country Ratifies OAS Human Rights Convention

FL2805202091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2005 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Washington, May 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday ratified the American Convention on Human Rights, the 23rd member of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to formally agree to abide by the 22 year-old convention. Trinidad and Tobago OAS Permanent Representative Angus Kahn deposited at the OAS the Republic's instrument of ratification. The 1969 convention is also known as the Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica.

The hemispheric convention, which was previously ratified by Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states Barbados, Grenada, and Jamaica, is intended to consolidate personal liberty and social justice in a framework of democratic institutions. Ambassador Kahn said most of the civil and political rights protected under the convention are already enshrined in Trinidad and Tobago's 1976 Republican Constitution and others are covered by international conventions to which the country is a party.

Parliamentarian McDavidson Agrees To Run

FL2405223991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 24, CANA—Three weeks after announcing she would no longer run in an election, Trinidad and Tobago's longest serving woman Parliamentarian, Muriel Donawa McDavidson, has changed her mind.

'I bent to the will of the people,' McDavidson of the opposition People's National Movement told CANA on Friday when she announced her return to competitive politics. A general election is expected before year-end.

'I was bombarded with letters, petitions; people met me on the streets and begged me to stay in politics, and even people from the Caribbean,' she said.

McDavidson who was influenced into politics by the late Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, has spent more than 30 years in local government, the Senate and, the House of Representatives, both as a government minister and in opposition. She had said she wanted to quit running for elections and wanted to serve the whole of Trinidad and Tobago.

In a separate statement to the media on Friday, she said she felt 'appreciated' by the public. 'In public life this is the greatest reward,' she said.

McDavidson, the representative for Laventille, a district on the outskirts of Port of Spain, has also signed the consent to be nominated as a candidate for the upcoming general election.

Parliamentary Speaker Pays Tribute to Gandhi

FL2705140991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1800 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 25, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Parliamentary speaker, Nizam Mohammed, on Friday advised political leaders here not to be drawn into the 'hate movement' which he said assassinated former India Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi fell victim to.

'To my mind, the late Rajiv Gandhi fell victim to what can be described as the hate movement....' Mohammed spoke in Parliament, paying tribute to Gandhi who was killed by a bomb on Tuesday.

The hate movement was 'taking root in so many countries, particularly the vulnerable smaller ones like ours,' the speaker remarked. 'It is not unreasonable for me to ask you, as leaders, to seriously ponder on this in the fierce heat of the political battlefield.' The Parliament also observed a moment of silence to mark the passing of Gandhi.

Mohammed said he has deep feelings of respect and admiration for Gandhi, who had the 'courage and conviction' to take up leadership to stabilise his country.

Agreement for Private Sector Financing Signed

FL2705163791 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 25, CANA—The Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) and the Trinidad and Tobago Development Finance Company (TTDFC) have signed agreements for a U.S. 2.5 million dollar loan and a U.S. 470,588 dollar equity investment fund.

An IIC statment said the financing will help alleviate problems faced by Trinidad and Tobago's private sector in obtaining foreign exchange investment funds in a timely manner. The IIC will lend long-term to the TTDFC, which will make medium-to-long-term loans to private sector projects.

The IIC is an autonomous multilateral merchant banking corporation affiliated with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Trintopec Reports 20 Percent Decline in Profits

FL2305132591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1242 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 23, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Company Limited (Trintopec) recorded a 1988 after-tax profit of TT 65.7 million dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 cents U.S.), a 20 percent decline on the previous year, the state company's latest annual report said.

Chairman Dr. Trevor Farrell attributed the sixth consecutive decline in profits to a 15.9 percent drop in crude prices and a 1 percent drop in crude production. Crude prices fell from an average of U.S. 15.42 dollars in 1987 to U.S. 12.97 dollars a barrel in 1988. Total crude production declined from 12,955,000 barrels in 1987 to 12,792,000 in 1988.

"Lower oil prices played the key role in the decline in the company's revenues and profits in 1988," said Dr. Farrell. He said Trintopec must increase production and boost its reserves if any fundamental reversal in the financial position of the company is to be realised.

"To achieve this, the first thing that is required is an expansion in the exploration acreage available to the company. This must be followed by increased investment in exploration, and increased exploration activity," said the economist. He added the "fruits" would be realised in the medium to long-term rather than immediately.

Coasta Rica

Mine Fields Found Near Nicaraguan Border

PA2405122691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1852 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] San Jose, 23 May (Notimex)—It was reported here today that in the past two weeks the rural police have found three mine fields near the Nicaraguan border.

The authorities pointed out that the mines were placed by "contras" to protect their shelters and training camps on Costa Rican territory near the border with Nicaragua.

Rural police director Carlos Poveda said 15 days ago that they found the first mine field in Pocosal and deactivated eight explosive devices.

Six more mines were deactivated at the banks of the Pocosal River, a few kilometers from the community. The last eight mines were buried in El Concho, a place where three children and a man were massacred three weeks ago.

El Salvador

FMLN's Gonzalez Replaces Villalobos in Caracas

PA2905134391 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front has made changes in the delegation that is participating in the negotiations with the Salvadoran Government in Caracas, Venezuela. For health reasons, Commander Leonel Gonzalez will replace Commander Joaquin Villalobos.

The Caracas negotiations must reach specific and real agreements leading to a cease-fire, since the possibilities of attaining peace have run out [as heard], said Ramon Diaz Bach, leader of the Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace. He noted that the end of the fighting will coincide with the implementation of change, such as the demilitarization of the two sides. Diaz Bach added that a cease-fire cannot be reached if there is no commitment from both sides, and if there are no fundamental changes within Salvadoran society.

Armed Forces Communique on Safeguarding Property

PA3005020591 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 May 91 pp 3, 43

["Excerpt" of communique issued by the Armed Forces Information Office in San Salvador on 27 May]

[Text] "As specified by Article 211 of the political Constitution, the Armed Forces is duty bound to enforce the laws of the Republic, to guarantee tranquility, maintain peace, ensure the citizens' safety, and safeguard private and public property against the illegal actions of people, groups, and organizations that may violate our country's judicial order.

"Within this constitutional framework, the Armed Forces may assist judicial branch organizations that may request their services in cases such as the occupation of land, as specified in Article 248 of the current Criminal Code. This means that the actions taken in the western area are by means outside legal bounds or constitute human rights violations, because they are not within the bounds of the law.

"The armed institution also reports to the national and international community that violence or brute force was never used in the eviction of peasants from the San Francisco Farm and other 'occupied' areas in Palo Pique Canton, Ahuachapan Department, as certain members of organizations that support illegal actions such as these occupations wrongly claimed.

"Plans by leaders of peasant organizations to call on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to take military action in the case of land occupation is a very dangerous development. This would only worsen the armed conflict facing the nation that has already killed thousands of compatriots and brought about a systematic destruction in the past 11 years of war.

"The Armed Forces reaffirms to all Salvadorans that its actions are in line with the law and that it is by no means acting arbitrarily, because its mission has always been to protect the lives and safety of citizens and to safeguard the sovereignty of national territory."

END Issues Statement on Land Distribution

PA3005024591 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 May 91

["Statement" by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the National Army for Democracy, END, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, in El Salvador on 28 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The problem of unfair land distribution has been the main cause of conflict in our country. That is why from the beginning the Salvadoran insurgents have been linked to the historic demands of the peasants, who, ever since Anastasio Aquino, have had no land to work. After many years, the peasants took up arms as a way to make a claim, but just when negotiations are under way to try to eliminate the cause of this uprising, the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government inflames the main reason for the war.

The government has not only stopped the vital agrarian reform and is trying to reverse the few goals achieved, but it forcibly dislodges peasants who have taken over idle land. How can Cristiani now say that all legal means have not been exhausted? Under these conditions, the only thing that can be said not to have been exhausted has been the people's reasons for taking up arms. The use of force to resolve this social problem, shows that the military continues to be the representative of a powerful few. What future could we expect if this Army were to stay permanently?

The END's presence is necessary to ensure that whatever is achieved in the negotiation does not revert back to how it was before. Faced with the government's stubbornness, the problem of land takeovers tends to grow and the Army's repression to deepen.

For these reasons, the END states that it supports the peasants' struggle for land and demands the immediate release of the 23 peasants who were detained when evicted from the San Francisco de Asis farm in Aguachapan. When these peasants are released, they must return to work that land. The END warns the government that if it continues using military force against the peasants, the END will use its weapons to defend the peasants' rights.

[Signed] Joint Chiefs of Staff of the National Army for Democracy
El Salvador, 28 May 1991

Bishop Urges Caution on Land Squatter Problem

PA3005042391 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 27 May 91 p 7

[Text] San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez asked the Salvadoran Government and the Armed Forces to act with caution, serenity, and logic when they try to solve the problem caused by the land squatters.

Rosa Chavez issued an appeal in response to the threat voiced by military and civilian officials, including President Alfredo Cristiani, who said the law would be enforced and the squatters would be evicted.

"We know that the squatters' actions are illegal, there is no doubt about that, but this is a deeply rooted problem in El Salvador. There is an unfair distribution of land, there is hunger, and there are other factors which make it impossible to see the case only from the legal point of view," the priest said yesterday after his homily at the cathedral.

The bishop had previously issued an appeal to the peasants, urging them to exhaust all other possibilities before adopting such a measure, especially now that there is a pluralist Legislative Assembly. "The church opposes all kinds of violence," it was stated by Rosa Chavez, who condemned last week's attack on the San Carlos Barracks, which resulted in the death and wounding of innocent civilians, and damage to the facility.

Referring to the concept of private property and land ownership, Rosa Chavez recalled previous statements and reasserted that, although ownership rights are recognized, this should not be understood in absolute terms because the land has a social function and "we have withstood many years of social injustice."

While the prelate was delivering his homily in the cathedral, labor groups led by the ANTA [National Association of Agriculture and Livestock Workers] and ADC [Democratic Peasant Alliance] gathered outside and asked the church to mediate and to prevent repressive actions that might degenerate into a massacre.

Labor leader Rosario Acosta accompanied a groups of peasants and said that the government seems to want this, meaning to pit the peasants against the Army, and this is surmised from the threats that the squatters will be evicted by the National Guard. "How ironic that the Army was used 10 years ago to seize the land and now it will be used to evict the peasants who want to till that very same land," Rosario said.

The labor leader said that the peasants have taken over idle land, adding that the owners want to sell most of the land but the government does nothing to solve the problem.

The deadline to clear 350 manzanas from El Sitio farm ends today. The land has been idle for 10 years and 70 families have settled on the land, located in Nahuizalco jurisdiction.

FMLN on 'Campaign' for Human Rights Ombudsman

PA2305213191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Press bulletin issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 18 May]

[Text] 1. Over the past few days, Mr. Benjamin Cestoni, executive secretary of the Human Rights Commission, has spent a considerable amount of money on a self-propaganda campaign in his boundless desire to be designated human rights ombudsman, an office that will be created as a result of the Mexico Agreements.

2. As part of this self-propaganda campaign, Mr. Cestoni claims that he has dealt with the FMLN in the area of human rights, which is totally false. We do not acknowledge the moral authority of the government Human Rights Commission presided over by Mr. Cestoni.

3. The government Human Rights Commission has been used only as a source of propaganda, cover-up, and complicity for the massacres and crimes perpetrated by the Armed Forces.

4. To conduct its mission successfully, the United Nations Human Rights Verification Commission, which will soon be established in El Salvador, will have the full support of the church, humanitarian organizations, and human rights defense groups, whose brave efforts have cost the lives of many of their members, such as Monsignor Romero, Marianela Garcia Villas, and Herbert Anaya Sanabria.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front
El Salvador, 18 May 91

Court Official on Changes in Judicial System

PA2605021991 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 May 91 p 3

[Text] On 22 May, Supreme Court President Mauricio Gutierrez Castro announced the creation of 18 new justice courts, including 12 penal courts.

During a breakfast meeting with leaders from the Union of Leaders of Salvadoran Enterprises, the president reported that the Judicial Branch has grown. The current Supreme Court established the branch with 86 courts, now there are 100, and 18 more will be created next year. Of those 18, 12 will be penal courts, allowing for better and faster administration of justice.

Gutierrez Castro also said that all the improvement programs currently being carried out by the Supreme Court are being financed with funds from the Supreme Court itself, because there was too much "pressure" from the donors.

Help that we receive will be unconditional and our laws and judicial principles will be respected, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice said.

The administration of justice will improve when serious, deep, impartial, and scientific investigations are carried out.

He pointed out that in this country there is one judge for 100,000 people, and that 50 percent of the judges are not only dedicated to penal law, but also to civilian, merchant, and labor law.

Regarding corruption, Gutierrez Castro said that in El Salvador there is less corruption than in other nearby countries with larger budgets.

The current Supreme Court of Justice has removed approximately 24 judges from trial and civilian courts for serious offenses. They were removed "quietly" because "we are not a court of inquisition," said Gutierrez Castro.

Buckland Deposition Admitted in Murder Case

PA2305205591 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 May 91 p 2

[Text] A deposition which U.S. Major Erick Buckland made to FBI agents has been admitted in the Jesuit murder case at the Fourth Penal Court.

In his deposition, the U.S. officer, who was working as an adviser to the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that Colonel Carlos Armando Aviles told him that Col. Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, director of the Military Academy, had decided to "go in and clean up" the Central American University (UCA).

Col. Carlos Armando Aviles later denied the statements, affirming that he had never said such a thing to Maj. Buckland and that he was willing to face the U.S. officer to prove that his allegations were false.

The NEW YORK TIMES later reported that Maj. Buckland took back on what he said. Buckland's statements were used by several organizations that provide continuous aid to the country's unions to spread propaganda in the U.S. Congress against the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

The Fourth Penal Court has requested a copy of the deposition through diplomatic channels.

Testimony Sought

PA2905145391 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 91 p 2

[Text] On 27 May, the Supreme Court of Justice asked the Foreign Affairs Ministry to request, through diplomatic channels, the appearance of U.S. Major Erick Buckland before the Fourth Penal Court.

In accordance with the aforementioned request and the current legislative procedures, the judicial branch has sent a letter to the Foreign Affairs Ministry requesting that U.S. authorities bring the North American officer to El Salvador.

The U.S. Officer Should Testify as a Witness

It was reported that the objective of bringing the North American officer to El Salvador is to have him testify in the case against the nine military officers accused of killing the six Jesuit priests and their two maids on 16 November 1989.

Between 16 October 1989 and 6 January 1990, Major Erick Buckland was a member of the team of U.S. military advisers. He worked at Group 5 [not further identified] of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, then directed by Colonel Carlos Armando Aviles.

Maj. Buckland arrived in the country in October 1990 to testify before the Fourth Penal Judge, after a diplomatic request had been submitted. The same request has been presented again by the court handling this case.

Guatemala

President Serrano Comments on Devine Murder Case

PA3005040991 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] President Elias Serrano said today that the legal process installed to punish the killers of U.S. citizen Michael Devine is proceeding normally.

Serrano was asked about the attitude of the executive branch regarding Mrs. Ann Devine's demand that an Army colonel implicated in this crime, which took place in July 1990, be put on trial.

[Begin Serrano recording] As I see it, this matter is settled. Whoever is found guilty goes to jail. He who has something to pay for, will have to pay. I have no reason for protecting anyone who has committed a crime, but guilt must first be established.

All the people who have been implicated in the Devine case are under arrest, with the exception of the colonel who is enjoying pretrial benefits before he can be interrogated.

A judge will have to decide whether or not there are grounds for his arrest. This cannot be decided by the president. This is a matter for the judicial branch. Ann

Devine and her attorneys know that the correct procedures are taking place. We, personally, ordered that this case be transferred to the capital so that justice may be adequately, correctly, and promptly applied.

We are interested in this case, in the Santiago Atitlan case, and in other cases that involve the grave abuse of power and other crimes.

We have to make clear, though, that the president of the Republic does not preside over the Supreme Court of Justice and has nothing to do with the justice in charge of the case. The president, in spite of the limitations imposed on him by the law and despite limited resources, is doing everything possible to see that this case and other cases are resolved.

The case you have pointed out is a case we inherited. The lady will have to acknowledge the fact that the progress that has been made in this legal process, thanks to the work we have done, is evident.

It is impossible to demonstrate more goodwill, or better intentions, or more firmness than what I have already demonstrated.

A president [words indistinct] and it is up to the courts to legally handle the cases. You can be sure that I have no reason for covering up for anyone. Pretrial proceedings are being followed regarding the colonel you mentioned, he will be interrogated, and if the justice in charge of this case determines that there are reasons for having him arrested, he will proceed in the same manner that justices have acted with regard to many other officers. This will not be the first Army officer to go to jail under my administration or the first officer to be degraded if there are reasons for such an action.

I want to tell the Guatemalan people this honestly: We have purged the Army and we have secured more obedience and more adherence to the law from Army personnel than from those in civil institutions.

I want to make this clear, and I am now speaking as commander in chief of the Army: Our Army cannot be stained by an officer who commits a crime. If an officer commits a crime, he, not the institution, will be responsible for that crime. The institution must submit to the Guatemalan people and safeguard order, defend the country's sovereignty, and work in a brotherly fashion at the side of the people. This is my obligation as president and as commander in chief of the Army. [end recording]

Negotiations on Refugee Repatriation To Begin

PA2905150091 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 26 May 91 p 3

[Text] The commissions representing the Guatemalan refugees in Mexico and the vice presidency of the Republic have signed an agreement in Comitan, Mexico, which establishes the foundations upon which the repatriation process for thousands of Guatemalans will be initiated.

The basic agreement was accepted and signed by official vice presidency delegates Sergio Mollinedo, Arturo Duarte, and Norma Contreras, and it establishes that the body will mediate in the negotiations process. The body will be formed by Monseignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno; Human Rights Attorney Ramiro de Leon Carpio; Roberto Rodriguez, who is the UN High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Guatemala; Anantonia Reyes and Toribio Pineda of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission; and the secretary will be Julio Mendizabal of the National Reconciliation Commission.

The repatriation negotiations will begin on 4 June at the vice presidency of the Republic, with an agenda of six basic points presented by the permanent commissions for refugees, which call for "security and dignity" for the repatriates upon their return.

The agenda includes the demilitarization of the areas to which the refugees will be returning, freedom of internal and external movement, freedom of expression and organization, and the return of lands that were abandoned during the past decade, when Guatemalan peasants sought refuge in Mexican territory.

Rebel Commander Demands Solution to Conflict

PA2305215391 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 May 91 p 4

[Text] Mexico City, 21 May (NG)— Within the context of an obvious increase in the repression against popular and democratic organizations, Commander Rolando Moran said during an interview with the magazine NOTICIAS DE GUATEMALA that "if there is no satisfactory solution concerning democratization and the need to achieve a calm political solution to the war...the war will continue and we will strengthen our military capability. [no closing quotation marks as published]

During the interview, in which he referred to various issues within the dialogue and negotiation process started with the government, Rolando Moran, a member of the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] General Command, said that the rebels have achieved a greater military development in recent months, which has coincided with the dialogue.

"We have been quite honest with the government delegation about this. We have told the delegation that we must negotiate because a negotiation will let us find political solutions to the internal armed conflict, which might be extended otherwise," the guerrilla leader said emphatically.

Moran said: "We are not only prepared, we can continue the struggle with all the means we have been using through all these years." The rebel commander's statements coincide with a new wave of repression that has caused concern among several humanitarian organizations.

Rolando Moran (Ricardo Ramirez) also said: "It is said that the Guatemalan people are tired of the war. No, the Guatemalan people are tired of exploitation, repression,

oppression, discrimination, poverty, and misery. Therefore, we are confident that we will always have the Guatemalan people's support and that they will endorse our positions."

Nevertheless, Commander Rolando Moran said he is pleased with the results achieved at the last meeting with the government because, he said, it includes our proposals, the points we consider essential to solve the situation, concerning the approved topics and agenda.

Referring to the URNG's military development, Moran emphasized: "We have reached a situation in which the Army is aware of who is who and a military victory against the URNG is no longer possible."

Nicaragua

Army Official Views Status of 'Re-Contras'

PA2905145891 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 28 May 91

[From the independent "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration]

[Text] Today, Major General Joaquin Cuadras said that the Sandinist People's Army estimated that there are approximately 300 re-contras [contras who have taken up arms again] spread throughout the country.

[Begin Cuadras recording] This does not mean that they are organized as a military unit or are always armed and wearing uniforms. It also does not mean that they have carried out military activities against the Army, the police, or any other state institutions.

We estimate that there are approximately 300 of these people and that eventually they will obtain weapons and use them to carry out some activity like cattle rustling. The Army General Command does not view this matter as something that could represent a danger to the country's stability. Nevertheless, we are closely following this situation. [end recording]

At the conclusion of his appearance at the Security and Defense Commission of the National Assembly, Cuadras characterized the rearming of the demobilized contras as being similar to the situation of instability endured by the Nicaraguan peasants during the 1980's.

International Body Attends Secret Contra Meeting

PA2605004291 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 May 91 p 1

[Text] The CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission]-OAS has again been involved in a situation that has nothing to do with its mission, and its position seems too close to the positions of those who wish to continue the war in Nicaragua.

In fact, EL NUEVO DIARIO has been notified that journalists Ruben Faria, of AP, and Oswaldo Mejia y Santiago, of WYN in England, recently went to the zone of Cua, where demobilized contras have risen again. The reporters came across the following scenario:

"Sombrerito," "Rojito," and Cinco Pinos" were waiting for their leader, "Dimas," at Manuel Reyes' house in El Cedro.

Luis Fley Gonzalez (Johnson), Santiago Murray, and two other CIAV-OAS members—one of them an Argentine and the other one an Uruguayan—suddenly arrived.

Murray told the journalists that it was a secret meeting and that they could not take pictures or send a report, adding that they would be compensated later with other scoops.

"Rojito" said that they had 180 armed men, that they had plans to take over the town or barracks next to Waslala, and that he rejected the leadership of Franklin and Ruben, and proclaimed "Dimas" as their leader.

In addition to the mentioned people, approximately 30 men armed with M-16s, FAL's, and M-79s were seen at El Cedro—with leaders "Vengador," "Verdugo," and "Corcel" featured prominently among them.

On 22 May both the AP and the WYN reporters reported their meeting at El Cedro, and they even published photographs, but they kept the secret, as Murray and his CIAV-OAS companions had requested.

Deputy Receives Death Threats at Assembly

PA2505235291 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2325 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Deputy Santos Tijerino, from the National Opposition Union, has been threatened with death by members of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] because of his charges of corruption at the (Domat [expansion unknown]), an institution that belongs to the People's National Corporation [Cornap]. The deputy was presenting his charges when the National Assembly board was interrupted by a telephone call from an unidentified person who threatened the deputy.

Tijerino said in his public accusations that the illegal dealings of the FSLN members and other people who are doing business with state property, have been investigated. He said they are selling state property and the Cornap director, engineer (Dayton Caldera) is not aware of it.

The National Assembly deputy also added that he has been receiving death threats from well-known FSLN agitators. Tijerino said he is not afraid and will continue the investigations because he is carrying out the duties for which he was elected.

The telephone call threatening Deputy Tijerino with death was received at the National Assembly by Azucena Ferrey Echeverry, who is currently the acting president of the legislative branch. Ferrey said the terrorists have gone too

far because they have dared to call the Assembly to make their death threats against a people's representative.

Mexican Ambassador on Return of Ortega's House

PA2905152291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2046 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Managua, 28 May (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan said here today that Mexico respects Nicaragua's internal affairs, but his intervention in the request for the return of the house occupied by former president Daniel Ortega "is based on Nicaraguan laws."

The diplomat told NOTIMEX that his efforts to get the house returned were limited "to protecting the interests of four Mexican citizens."

The house, occupied by the Sandinist leader for the past 10 years, is being claimed by Mexican citizen Amparo Vasquez Robelo—wife of former "contra" leader Jaime Morales—who has requested the intervention of the diplomatic representative.

The Morales-Vasquez residence was confiscated in accordance with the absentee law decreed by the Sandinist regime a few months after it came to power in 1979.

Former President Ortega bought the house for less than $1,000 two months before leaving power in 1990. According to the owner of the property, the real value of the house is approximately $950,000.

Ambassador Galan, attending the request of those concerned, initiated procedures before Attorney General Duilio Baltodano, adding "that the case be reviewed within the framework of the Nicaraguan law."

"The embassy is not asking for preferential treatment. It only wants justice to be served, in the interests of the Mexican citizens, within the framework of the Nicaraguan law," he added.

In a letter sent to Baltodano in March and published by a local newspaper on 24 May, the Mexican ambassador affirms that "there are enough legal reasons to maintain that the abstentee status did not apply to this property."

"Attorney General Duilio Baltodano has not responded to my requests, therefore, we have been unable to proceed with negotiations," Galan said, adding that he hoped "the good offices of the embassy will have positive effects."

Galan, who has headed the Mexican diplomatic offices in Nicaragua for almost two years, denied that "this little incident could damage the excellent relations between the Mexican Government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front."

Former Vice President Sergio Ramirez, however, has said that Galan's action denoted "lack of diplomatic tact."

Ramirez, who was vice president during the almost 11 years of the Sandinist government, added: "A diplomat should be more cautious when interfering in the internal affairs of a country and the Mexican Government should know that this action has an undertone of political revenge."

Ramirez asked "the Mexican Government to correct its position so that the action does not cause problems or become another element in the polarization of the Nicaraguan society."

"I do not see how a Nicaraguan citizen could sue a former Mexican president for any reason without that action causing problems in the Mexican society," Ramirez stated.

FSLN Leader Discusses 'Pinata-Like Givezway'

PA2905224091 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 May 91 pp 1, 20

[Text] Rafael Solis Cerda, leader of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], who was secretary of the National Assembly for many years, said yesterday that "he does not share the closed views of other Sandinist leaders on the 'pinata-like giveaway.'"

"One must not cling to the idea of defending things which are undoubtedly a burden for the future of the Sandinists and which everyone rejects because they are not beneficial," Solis added.

He said that if a revision of the "pinata-like giveaway" is not made, it could mean the elimination of the FSLN and he called on others to take advantage of the government's attitude, which by trying to take away the "pinata," is taking away something that is really harmful.

Rafael Solis made the statements during an event organized by the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which advocates social democratic ideals, in which two documents from the Institute of Nicaraguan Studies were presented. One was on the government-opposition attitude a year after the elections and the other was on the internal transition process experienced by the FSLN.

Meanwhile, Deputy William Ramirez said he regretted that at the time of the "pinata-like giveaway" there were not more things to give away. He said that making thousands of Nicaraguans owners of property is part of the revolution's strategy, which, today, many people are trying to discredit because they want to return to 1979, when all property was in the hands of a few.

The controversy between Solis and Ramirez was unleashed after Dr. Paul Oquist, executive director of the Institute of Nicaraguan Studies, which is sponsored by the Ebert Foundation, read a document in which a crude analysis was made of the organizational errors and conceptual mistakes committed by the FSLN before its electoral defeat, as well as of the process of transformation and transition made by the party itself to ensure its future permanence in the country.

William Ramirez disagreed with the contents of the document and said that the process of internal change in the FSLN was being conducted before the election

defeat. Because of the lack of foreign resources, however, the economic program, which the government had drafted, did not have the expected success.

"Now we are facing a campaign to discredit the revolution, which will not be successful because the process is irreversible and even though peasants may become victims of promises, workers will never be silent," Deputy Ramirez said.

As for Laws No. 85 and 86 (the "pinata-like giveaway" laws), Ramirez said these laws have already been passed and the only thing the government could do is file a political lawsuit because the law is irreversible.

Ramirez claims that the FSLN currently has 138,000 members, counting both activists and sympathizers. According to Ramirez, the "pinata-like giveaway" was not carried out during the two months between the election defeat and the new government's inauguration because they had never dreamed they could lose the elections.

Meanwhile, Rafael Solis said that the "pinata-like giveaway" issue might seem like an error now, but at the time of its implementation its goal was to establish a stable government that could neutralize the revengefulness that was seen coming from certain UNO [National Opposition Union] sectors.

"If we had not implemented the 'pinata-like giveaway,' this would have resulted in countless evictions that would not have contributed to the reconciliation process sponsored by the government," Solis noted.

Solid added: "What is important now is that all these issues be discussed during the July congress. What concerns me the most, however, is that I do not see any willingness to discuss the errors in the models we tried to establish in the past."

"It has been said that we lost the elections because of the war, because of the patriotic military service, or even because of the economic situation. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that we lost the elections because socialism is no longer valid in the world, and we should discuss all of this to find new horizons," Solis added.

With regard to FSLN unity, Carlos Fernando Chamorro—who had participated in the first panel on government relations with the opposition—claims that there is no division within the FSLN. According to Chamorro, what there is, is an on-going debate and that the July congress would be a ratification of the El Crucero assembly where a constructive and responsible opposition was outlined.

Chamorro disclosed that since the FSLN is no longer a state appendage, as it was in the past, some changes will have to take place and that maybe the FSLN's orientation towards the unions and popular organizations will survive as a form of "Sandinist inspiration." Only the youth organizations shall remain as party institutions.

Nevertheless, Rafael Solis said yesterday that if the issues are not thoroughly discussed at the July congress, this would result only in superficial changes, and that even if there is no division in July, this could lead to division in the future.

Meanwhile, Commander William Ramirez stated emphatically that the key for FSLN unity, as well as for the nation's stability, is to keep the seven commanders in the FSLN's National Directorate.

Rafael Solis noted, however, that to leave the same commanders in the FSLN National Directorate did not represent any change whatsoever, and he would only accept this if the commanders were elected, through secret vote, by all the Assembly delegates.

Solis repeated his criticism of the National Workers Front for their "confronting and destabilizing actions" that do not represent the nation's majority. On the contrary, these actions are detrimental to the majority, he noted.

To conclude, Rafael Solis explained to the panel that he has been accused of being a social democrat in light of all his statements, but for him "social democracy is not evil."

Panama

Article Urges Consideration of Future of Bases

PA2605043991 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The Future Offers Benefits With Dignity"]

[Text] Despite the truth of the thesis that the neutrality of the Panama Canal must always be its best defense, it is no less true that one of the problems all Panamanians must act quickly to solve is the one related to the defense of the canal now, until the 1977 treaty takes effect.

The actual reality is that the U.S. military forces are serving as the custodians and defenders, and as anything else they may consider necessary that can only be defined as "without restrictions."

If there are any prerequisites or initial demands to satisfy, these remain in the confusing silence of the Foreign Ministry, or at least have not been said to the majority of the people.

Of course, this is an irregular situation which contradicts the insistence that this is not an occupied country, where the invader can move around, stop, or settle whenever he feels like it.

Pragmatism calls for two courses of action that fluctuate between prohibiting or allowing the U.S. Armed Forces to continue as they have been. Prohibiting is a course of action we consider unlikely. Therefore, we are left with allowing things to continue as they have, but with conditions that are convenient for our country. We can

well take, as an example, countries in similar circumstances, such as Spain, Germany, and France. These countries allow strategic bases on their territory through a lease that in no way harms their nationalistic sensitivity or affects their sovereignty. If no one has thought of accusing the French, Spaniards, or Germans of lacking any patriotism, then there should be no logical reason to describe Panama as lacking any dignity or sovereignty for acting in the same manner as these countries.

If what is taking place in Europe merits the approval of the whole world, then there is no reason why it should not gain the same degree of support in America.

At the same time that we are preparing to comply with the responsibilities that come with the start of the 21st century, Panamanians can take advantage of what remains of the present decade to receive the benefits that we have pointed out, without having to discredit our sense of dignity or our precious sovereignty.

'Hundreds' Protest Against Endara Government

PA3005042591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 29 May (ACAN-EFE)—Hundreds of workers, students, and government employees marched today along Via Espana—the main avenue of Panama City—to protest against the "IMF" policy of Guillermo Endara's government, the lack of housing, and unemployment.

The demonstrators, who also shouted slogans against the U.S. presence in Panama, marched in a persistent rain to the Legislative Assembly. No serious incidents were reported during the march.

A group of legislators received the leaders of the demonstration at the Legislative Assembly's entrance and allowed a 15-member workers commission to enter the building and present the workers' demands at the plenary session.

"Panamanians will fight hard for the Canal and the Social Security Fund" and "Endara, your future is not certain with the rise in meat prices and without wages or social security," were some of the slogans shouted by the more than 2,000 demonstrators that participated in the march. This figure was provided by the demonstration's organizers.

The General Union of Workers (UGT) of Panama denounced the deterioration of basic health services and the decrease in public investments to save money and give it to the World Bank and IMF, "which has become the main goal of President Endara's administration."

"We are concerned because the accumulation of problems and the fast socioeconomic deterioration will lead sectors of this society into situations that will have unpredictable consequences and social costs which we will all regret," the UGT warned.

The workers asked Endara to endorse and not veto the law that will give them the special 13th month bonus, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly, immediately. The special bonus had been suspended by the previous regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Return of Arms Taken During Invasion Requested

PA2805151491 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 May 91 p 2-A

[Article by Maribel Del C. Saldana O.]

[Text] A source close to the Government Ministry has reported that the return of the equipment and weaponry taken by the United States during the 20 December 1989 invasion is currently being negotiated. The steps for the return of this weaponry are being taken as part of the reorganization of the Public Force as a modern and disciplined institution.

Talks are being held—unofficially up to now—with U.S. diplomatic officials in Panama in order for U.S. authorities to return the arsenal seized from the late Defense Forces.

Although there have been no official reports on the affair, the source said it is understood that up to this point the Panamanian Government is only seeking the return of what has been termed defensive weapons. This excludes heavy equipment and sophisticated weaponry.

According to the source, the interest in battling the high rate of delinquency, reducing violence in the streets, and fighting the continuous armed robberies that have taken place in the country over the past months are the main reasons for reorganizing the Public Force.

The source stated that the lack of equipment was pointed out in light of the public disturbances that have been announced for this week, as well as others that may come due to the possible approval of the reforms to the Social Security Fund Law and the imposition of the economic plan.

Spanish Bank's Involvement in Laundering Explored

PA2605024891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 May 91 p 4a

[From the "Hidden Truths" column by Tomas A. Cabal]

[Text] Spanish banks operating in the Panamanian banking center have been constantly associated with laundering drug money by U.S. and European drug agencies in charge of curbing drug trafficking. Reviewing the behavior of Spanish banks in Panama, we find the following:

Banco Exterior: Involved in irregular transactions such as the case of A.R.J. and Associates Inc., company owned by drug trafficking pilot Cesar Rodriguez.

According to documents, this company was used to withdraw $6.5 million from a project to restore the old section of Panama City in 1984. This bank has also been

linked by Spanish police with the criminal activities of Colombian drug dealer Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, through the Panamanian companies Haverstack Ltd. and Union Enterprise LM.

Banco Central: According to documents, this bank is also involved in the A.R.J. and Associates case. According to Spanish sources, this bank is well known for attracting deposits of investors and businessmen involved in money laundering. It currently has a branch in the Colon Free Zone, which is the place of choice by drug traffickers for laundering money by over charging for purchased merchandised.

Banco de Santander: Through its branch located in Gijon, Spain, this bank has maintained close ties with the Asturian brothers and hotel owner Fernandez Espina, who have been linked by Spanish police with Colombian drug trafficker Jesus Gaviria, cousin of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, and Honduran drug trafficker Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros, currently jailed in the United States. The Fernandez Espina brothers, who live in Panama in the Marbella neigborhood, are owners of hotels in Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Spain (Madrid, La Coruna, Santiago, Candas, Oviedo, Gijon, and Santander).

Banco de Bilbao: According to Spanish authorities, this bank, because of its use of Panamanian companies, is closely associated with money laundering operations in Spain and Gibraltar. This bank has also been highlighted by the Spanish magazine CAMBIO 16 as an important link to the drug trafficking clans that operate in Galicia.

Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon is currently investigating the criminal activities of Galician drug trafficker Juan Ramon Prado Bugallo, better known as Sito Minanco, who, until his capture in Madrid on 29 January 1990, had lived in Panama since 1985.

Banco Iberoamericano: This bank has been linked by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to the criminal organization of Colombian drug trafficker Rodriguez Gacha, killed by Colombian police on 15 December 1989.

This bank, however, seems to be the exception, since its legal adviser, Panamanian lawyer Gabriel Castro, and directors have cooperated and continue to cooperate with the authorities who are investigating drug trafficking and money laundering. During recent investigations, in which the DEA discovered the participation of Colombian drug dealer Rodriguez Gacha, the bank has immediately provided access to all necessary documents.

If only the rest of the banks operating in the Panamanian banking center would behave like Banco Iberoamericano. If this were the case, international drug dealers and their local front men would move their money laundering operations elsewhere, a necessary step in eliminating drug trafficking from Panama.

Police Director on Forged Documents' Traffic

PA2405234591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 May 91 p 2

[Article by Rafael Rodriguez]

[Text] The illegal sale of passports in Panama is a cancer that has become an international business. It has been stated by Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Oswaldo Fernandez that people are being arrested daily with forged documents from Dominican Republic and Panama.

Fernandez showed the media forged documents seized by authorities during several raids. Costa Rican children, women, and men have been issued Cuban [as published] passports. Seals from Panamanian embassies abroad and foreign embassies in Panama have been forged, but one can hardly tell the difference between them and the authentic seals.

The illegal sale of passports in Panama has become big business with each of the passports costing between $1,000 and $5,000 on the black market, Fernandez said.

Immigration, National Police, Customs, and PTJ authorities are trying to prevent Panama from becoming an international passport trafficking center, Director Fernandez said. He added that, according to the investigations, the passports are forged in the Dominican Republic and Panama.

The PTJ director explained that people request their passport and then sell it for $5,000, and all the forgers have to do is change the photograph. He added that the Assistant District Attorney's Office is constantly arresting people. Some of them were released on bail, others have been deported, and others are still being detained.

Fernandez said that the trafficking of passports is carried out by a network which operates out of the Dominican Republic and Panama. Persons carrying forged passports are being arrested every day in operations carried out by the National Crime Prevention Coordinating Board. The most worrisome thing is that Panamanian citizens are going to the Passport Department, requesting a passport with their legal name and then selling the passport. They then return to the office and report their passport as stolen.

The Chinese mafia is part of this cancer (forging passports) but that is not all, he said. Fernandez abstained from incriminating any government officials, but he did not deny any connection and he said that he is investigating the issue.

Furthermore, sources close to the PTJ said that the Chinese mafia is headed by an Asian whose surname is Wong and who worked in the Immigration Department as an inspection director. The Asian mafia is called "Fa Yuen," it operates in Panama and Costa Rica, and it was originally organized in a poor Guang Tong Province town from which it takes its name and where the Hakka dialect is spoken.

Wong, who is identified as the head of the mafia, operates from Hong Kong where he recruits his clients in restaurants, casinos, and Chinese video clubs. He is also has an account in a bank handling Asian capital.

Menendez Franco said he knows about a man who has entered the country under three different nationalities, but he did not reveal the name. Asked why the man has not been arrested, the PTJ director apologized and explained that the Immigration Office has a problem at the airport—its computers were destroyed and it hopes to soon have the elements that will allow it to promptly track the arrival and departure of these people.

Menendez Franco talked about the country's national security and said there technically is security, but there is no security equipment (talking about the problem at the airport).

Supreme Court Rules on Firing of Personnel

PA2805165791 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 May 91 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Report by Emilio Sinclair]

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice, with the abstention of Justice Rodrigo Molina, has declared a paragraph of Article 2 of Law 25 of 14 December 1990 unconstitutional, whereby the executive "takes measures in the government institutions to protect democracy and preserve constitutional order."

The law allows President Guillermo Endara to remove personnel who are regarded as unfit for public positions.

The law was challenged on three occasions, the first time by Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the labor union of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, who empowered the law attorney Vicente Archbold to act on his behalf. Rodriguez, who was dismissed in December 1990, filed his suit on 21 December 1990.

The two other suits were filed by lawyer Santander Tristan and others and labor activist Rolando Miller through lawyer Basilio Chong Gomez, who was given special powers. Both Tristan and Miller filed their suits on 24 December 1990.

The three deciding justices "agreed to hear the three suits together so they could issue a single ruling."

After due consideration, it was decided that the law's only unconstitutional portion was a paragraph under Article 2.

Article 2 of the law states: "The higher authorities of the government institutions, such as ministers, directors of autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions, state enterprises, and other government agencies, the prosecutor general, the attorney general of the administration, the comptroller general, governors, and mayors can annul the appointments of public officials who participate in actions described in Article 1 of this law."

The paragraph declared unconstitutional says: "Before removing government officials, the executive, through the Cabinet Council, shall determine whether these actions undermine democracy and constitutional order."

According to the Supreme Court of Justice, none of the articles that were supposedly violated are unconstitutional.

The plaintiffs claimed that Law 25 of 14 December 1990 violated Articles 2, 4, 17, 19, 22, 31, 33, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 60, 64, 68, 70, 73, 74, 75, 153, 157, 195, 203, and 295 of the Constitution.

In explaining his abstention, Justice Rodrigo Molina stated: "With all due respect, I disagree with the decision adopted by the majority of the Supreme Court of Justice, which limits the declaration of unconstitutionality to a paragraph of Article 2 of Law 25 of 14 December 1990. In my opinion, as I stated in my presentation, which was not approved by the majority of my honorable colleagues, Articles 1 and 2, as well as that one particular paragraph, are unconstitutional."

Justice Molina then explained the reasons for his opinion.

Special Bonus to Public Employees Reinstated

PA2905172591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 May 91 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, amid applause from the stands, the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly approved Bill 73, which calls for the payment of the 13th-month bonus to public employees. This bill, however, must still be approved by President Guillermo Endara, who has already warned that he will veto it.

The reinstatement of the bonus was voted for by 38 Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislators and one MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] alternate legislator, while 18 MOLIRENA and PLA [Authentic Liberal Party] legislators voted against and two abstained. [passage omitted]

Assembly President Alonso Fernandez signed Bill 73, which consists of only five articles, after it was approved, while those deputies who voted against it shouted: "The pact between the PRD and PDC has been confirmed." [passage omitted]

Argentina

Defense Minister Clarifies Policies to Nation

PY2905150091 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 May 91

[Speech to the nation by Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez; place not given—live]

[Text] Argentines: The government is aware that our society is debating several issues regarding national defense, the role of the Armed Forces, the privatization of companies in the defense sector, and research work—such as the Condor—conducted by the defense sector. Recognizing the people's right to know about its actions, through this message the government wants to clarify the concrete policies and acts which serve as the constitutional power's answer to these anxieties.

To accomplish this we must establish a precise legal framework and perhaps even repeat elementary concepts that are part of the Defense Law. This law clearly states that national defense consists of the integrated and coordinated action of all national forces for the solution of conflicts which require the use of the Armed Forces, in a deterrent or persuasive manner, to face foreign aggression and thus permanently ensure the sovereignty and independence of the Argentine nation; to preserve its territorial integrity and its right to self-determination; and to protect the lives and freedom of its people.

The law also establishes that the Armed Forces must contribute to the fulfillment of national goals and ensure that the executive branch has the freedom to decide what measures it will adopt to pursue these objectives. The Armed Forces' deterrent ability is based on its intrinsic moral and material capacity, its readiness to act, and the credibility of its use. This is how the Armed Forces—through their effective presence, and even without having to fight while remaining prepared to do so—serve the government in the political and economic fields.

The possibility of having to resort to the use of force interferes in mutual relations among countries as much in the field of competitiveness as in that of cooperation. This justifies the existence of the Armed Forces in their positive role as a protagonist which serves in negotiations, influences the handling of crises, and definitively contributes to preventing war.

We cannot restrict our explanation to the legal aspect of the Armed Forces while failing to refer, even briefly, to the ultimate objective of any government, which is the common good, and to the fact that the common good is not a static concept. It must relate to the time and place in which it will be implemented. First, the common good is applicable to the situation of the people and must therefore respect the dignity and freedom to which all human beings are entitled. In our opinion, the common good is a series of moral, material, and intellectual values that the government administers, promotes, and grants. It is a dynamic concept that political answers adjust to the historical moment, to the idiosyncrasies of and priorities established by a country.

These priorities are not the same in all countries. We are Christians and Westerners through our cultural inheritance from Greece, Rome, and Christianity, but we are living in different historical circumstances. As a result, the common good has different characteristics. This is why the common good is guaranteed by the government and given to the people in a fair manner. The core of the common good is ultimately social justice.

The different positions in the discussion on the role of the Armed Forces and the security forces range from the extremely irresponsible position of wanting to see them disappear or lose their objectives to the other extreme of wanting to add the suffix -ism to the word military, thus giving it the negative characteristics of militarism.

This attitude attributes a bellicose bias to these forces and could encourage them to clash with the political power and civilian society. These clashes would be a repetition of historical mistakes which have left deep wounds in our society, wounds which we have been trying to heal. This attitude would also lead to an almost irrevocable backwardness in the evolution and development of our society and to disharmonies that would prevent peaceful coexistence, the achievement of civic maturity, and the consolidation of democracy. These are indispensable goals if we want to work together to build the country that history demands from us.

Those who have not overcome their antagonisms do not understand that institutions go beyond the life and behavior of their members and that the reproachable or condemnable behavior of men must not tarnish or discredit the institutions which serve the motherland with generosity, patriotism, ability, and dedication. This is true for the Armed Forces, the security forces, political organizations, and civilian institutions.

The Armed Forces and security organizations are not open sectors. Their members are subject to group discipline and specific obligations. They therefore deserve a basic respect as institutions which cannot respond to the daily hounding of conjectures, which sometimes turn into attacks, and assumptions, which often border on aggression and provoke responses which go beyond their realm of decision-making.

In this case we urge prudence and moderation in military subjects connected to national security. Countries which do not preserve their secrets lack credibility. This is why we wish to simply but clearly assert that, in our field, not everyone who remains silent is giving their consent; they are simply complying with their duty of discipline through the basic norms of protection for the society to which they belong.

Armed Forces restructuring.

The government has set in motion a plan which provides for deep structural changes in an effort to build an efficient and

modern country, a country experiencing a period of growth within a framework of social justice from the viewpoints of both participation and distribution.

This plan includes a necessary restructuring of the Armed Forces and security forces, which will have to adjust their numbers, capabilities, efficiency, and specific missions to the proposed objectives.

A description of the restructuring of the Armed Forces should begin with an outline of the concepts upon which the restructuring is based. The following essential objectives should be mentioned:

1. To recover and promote military dedication, devotion to service, the highly ethical significance of its role, and the spirit of sacrifice, all of which have been and will continue to be the essence of military institutions;

2. To confirm at every available opportunity the fact that the Armed Forces are part of community life, that they are subordinated to the government, and that their role is to guarantee national sovereignty;

3. To reformulate the course curriculum and training periods in order to develop top professional skills in every area, so that an efficient response can be guaranteed whenever required by the fatherland.

4. To streamline organs to eliminate the bureaucracy that prevents the Armed Forces from moving expediently and swiftly, and to adjust the number of cadres and military career regulations in an effort to achieve top efficiency in discharging the mission of the Armed Forces.

5. To transfer to the private sector all those goods for which—taking into account current technology levels—ownership by the Armed Forces is unjustified. We are talking about fields, buildings, and other items that will no longer be useful as progress is made toward concentrating the Armed Forces, selecting geographical locations, and modernizing equipment.

6. To reformulate defense production, transferring to the private sector all production units that have already fulfilled their original objective of promoting the industrialization of the country. Like all state enterprises, these units today need a thorough transformation to achieve recapitalization, top efficiency levels, and managerial skills based on modern business administration techniques. This will allow the state to transfer to the private sector all those functions which are no longer within its jurisdiction, which it is unable to operate either in financially and technically, or which have a chance of developing a broad market in private hands.

All these features are part of the objectives that I chose when I assumed this portfolio. Progress has been made since that time—silently but with absolute responsibility and perseverance—in each ministry area.

1. Among the very first things we did was to hold a permanent dialogue at all levels of the Armed Forces to instill and promote the executive branch's message on the value of military ethics and the restoration of basic values, such as discipline and austerity in military development. That task will continue to be developed through seminars in which participants will analyze and discuss all the issues in depth.

2. At the professional training level, we have launched a graduate program for cadets, officer candidates, NCO's, and young officers at state universities and scientific and technical research institutes. That will allow every graduate access to higher education or university-level professional training.

3. Regarding rationalization, we have adopted a variety of measures:

A 41.3-percent reduction in overall Armed Forces civilian personnel. That figure surpasses the goal established by Decree No. 2476 of 1990. A total of 10,900 persons were dismissed within the framework of the rationalization program, which includes voluntary retirement and compensation.

The reduction was even more drastic at the level of the Armed Forces and security forces. That reduction totaled 42.3 percent, and a total of 10,700 persons were discharged.

In the Defense Ministry, the overall reduction totaled 44 percent, and the permanent staff was reduced by 17.3 percent.

All branches of the Armed Forces and the Joint Staff are studying a series of amendments to be submitted to the legislative branch that will modernize the military personnel law in view of the challenges raised by the military reorganization program.

For the first time in over 20 years, we have ordered the closure of 20 percent of our military attache posts abroad. We are also completing a study on the sale of the properties housing the attaches and others, who in the future will lease their offices.

In view of the current situation and the tight budget restrictions, the number of recruits has been reduced; Air Force activities have been reduced through a drastic decrease in flying time; a maximum number of vacancies in military instruction centers has been established; new upper-level military personnel will not be incorporated into the professional corps; the Air Force NCO school at Ezeiza has been closed; as of 15 June, the Army Support Operational Requirement Program and any similar Air Force program will be suspended; a minimum amount of flights have been continued to avoid permanently damaging the available materiel; and the number of transportation, combat, and training crews has been reduced to a minimum. Our response capabilities, however, will not be undermined despite these large budget cuts.

As of the current fiscal year, the Air Force and Army schools must finance all their expenses; all subsidies have been canceled. As of 15 June, the Civil Aviation Institute will

cancel all courses and training programs, which includes the dismissal of the civilian pilots who fly its planes.

Neither the Navy nor the Air Force will make their traditional end-of-the-year training trips this year.

By the end of 1991, we will gradually begin closing Army, Navy, and Air Force units. Our goal is to achieve a modern strategic concentration that will allow us to abandon certain lots and buildings and centralize management, maintenance, repair, and logistical services.

We have studied the properties that are currently available. The study has shown that there are large areas of rural property that will be sold, including 980 hectares in Campo de Mayo, buildings in the Federal Capital District, and other districts in the interior of the country.

Rationalization, however, will not affect the activities through which the Armed Forces permanently assist the community, including support for the National Directorate for Civil Defense, when men and equipment are provided to minimize the effects of national disasters; the continuation of literacy programs and health assistance for recruits during their time of service; assistance to transport organs for [word indistinct], flight training [fomento aereo], and search-and-rescue missions; the settlement of military units in inhospitable areas to help population development; and assistance to security and police forces, at the request of the appropriate authority, to maintain internal peace and to fight the scourge of drug trafficking.

The reorganization plan will be submitted to Congress through a draft bill establishing objectives, reconversion programs, estimates on the approximate costs of the plan, and sources of financing. Among the latter, as we said before, it is necessary to create resources through the sale of properties and privatizations.

Defense enterprises.

The group of firms subordinated to the Defense Ministry that were created to support specific military production will be privatized and reorganized through a dynamic program that is already under way. We can announce that the government has decided to liquidate the Special Development Company and the Tamse [Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise], and that an agreement has been signed with selected investment banks to sell the state ownership of Bahia Blanca Petrochemical, General Mosconi Petrochemical, Apla Blast Furnace, and the synthetic toluene plant in Campana and the sulphuric acid plant in Deriso.

We are also ready to invite a select group of consultants to develop a strategy to privatize Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association]. The privatization process in the defense area is being carried out with World Bank cooperation to ensure maximum clarity. Legal dispositions in effect will be strictly respected and Congress will have the appropriate level of participation.

The privatization process will emphasize not only the defense of the state's economic interests, but also the continuation of the investment process to ensure the treasury's profits and the survival of firms as sources of employment and economic activity. Until the privatizations are implemented, firms will be administered with absolute austerity and rational economic efficiency, avoiding decisions that might endanger or make more difficult the future privatization process.

It is important to note that the group of defense firms has been suffering from a lack of investment, which has naturally affected their productive structure and put their future at risk. That has perhaps made the privatization process necessary, as has the need to assure economic efficiency, without which the economic survival of the firms in question, in an open and competitive economy, would be very much in doubt.

The reason behind the creation of the firms as pioneers of the metal mechanical and raw materials industry in the country, as established by the Sabio law, clearly contemplated that state participation would be limited and would have to be phased out with the participation of private capital and when the productive structures of the country could ensure the viability of local production of military hardware.

Today, our national industry is in a different situation from the one that prevailed when such enterprises were created.

There has been, however, a delay in the process of transferring to the private sector those industrial activities that no longer justify being run as state enterprises now that the reasons for their creation have disappeared.

Complying with these objectives, the transfer of the state-owned shares of Polisur Inc. [expansion unknown], (Petropol) [expansion unknown], (Induclor) [expansion unknown], and Vinylic Monomers Inc. has already been completed. That transfer yielded $45,952,000 plus $131,500,000 in foreign debt certificates.

The call for offers for Tandanor [North Basin Shipyards], (Carboquimica), and the Rio Tercero Petrochemical Complex is being studied. A decision will be made as soon as an evaluation is completed of whether it would be advantageous to continue with such a transfer, considering the effects the process might have on other enterprises of the same sector.

On the other hand, the bases and conditions for the privatization of the former (Meteor) plant, of Zarate, Forja Argentina Inc., and the Zapala Steel Plant are now fully operational.

Budget.

Each analysis of the Armed Forces allocations within the budget has included concepts that are based on general views which can lead to erroneous conclusions. Such erroneous conclusions involve both the actual percentage of the budget that goes to the military—

compared with the other sectors—and with some basic factors that call for a breakdown for more accurate study.

In that regard, to say that the Armed Forces absorb almost 2 percentage points of the GNP, or that the Defense Ministry absorbs 30 percent of the administration's personnel spending, means the following:

Armed Forces: 19 percent

That percentage includes all personnel on active duty, retired personnel, pensioners, and other persons who, under military regulations, receive pensions without having contributed to the sector.

To have an idea of the magnitude of the figures, we will say that in 1980 there were 56,800 active-duty personnel and that in 1990 that figure became 56,500. On the other hand, in the same period, the number of retired military personnel grew from 70,800 to 79,400. That shows that there is one active-duty member for every 1.4 retired members.

Yet it is even more interesting to stress that it is the only sector in which retirement allowances are considered in calculating the cost of the sector. For example, if we added the personnel expenditures of Congress, of the judicial branch, of the diplomatic service, or of the banking system, to the allowances paid to their retired employees, the relations and conclusions would be totally different. That is, we are comparing figures and data that are not calculated using the same standards.

Having said that, we should conclude that the 19-percent allocation for military personnel is really less than 10 percent.

There is a similar ratio for the security forces, for the naval prefecture, and for the border police, whose 11-percent allocation is really around 5 percent.

Finally, it has been repeatedly said that military personnel enjoy a privileged social security system. We are working on that so as to bring it within the legitimate rights to which such personnel are entitled.

Yet it is necessary to emphasize that there are some differences that have made this a stricter system. For example, all military men who are compulsorily sent into retirement before 15 years of duty lose the contributions they had made to that date. Such contributions cannot be transferred to other systems because they are considered to be owned by the state and not by the contributor. Contributions are also lost in case of voluntary retirement before the completion of 25 years of service.

Considering that this should be a summary message, we will say that investment in military equipment has undergone a process of reduction, as in other state sectors. Much of the equipment has become completely obsolete.

The reorganization process will include the necessary re-equipment and modernization, which will be financed with funds that the forces should produce through the announced sale of property and through the privatization process.

The Space Challenge.

The national government has determined the drafting and implementation of a scientific, technological, and space development program that will meet the current needs and interests of Argentine society and adequately face the challenges of the future.

The space research and study program that exists today was launched in 1960 with the establishment the National Space Research Commission, which is subordinated to the Air Force. Despite the valuable effort of Argentine scientists and the resources invested, the program has not developed sufficiently. Today it is virtually reduced to the routine use of foreign satellite services. Larger investments would probably have resulted in greater developments, but that was impossible in view of the deep economic crisis that has affected the country for many decades.

It is time for Argentina to resume and coherently promote its space activities so that with their talent, imagination, and work, Argentine scientists, engineers, and experts can contribute to achieve the well-being and development of our country through the peaceful exploitation of space.

The time has come to boost Argentine space development by focusing it on realistic and viable programs in line with our potential, and inspired exclusively by peaceful objectives. Because it deals with particularly sensitive areas, all Argentine Government space activities require the prior consensus of our society and direct subordination to the executive branch. Moreover, it should clearly reflect the country's willingness to join the new world order as a full and reliable member.

Our space policy must be clear and fully coherent with the great international space agreements. Based on these principles, through Decree 995, which was signed today, the executive branch has established the following:

1. To establish the National Space Activities Committee [Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales], which will be directly subordinated to the presidency. This committee will be the sole government organizations in charge of designing, controlling, negotiating, and managing space projects and undertakings.

In view of that, all installations, which until now were under the jurisdiction of the National Space Research Commission, and those at Falda del Carmen, are now placed under the jurisdiction of the National Space Activities Committee.

It is expected that Congress will have an active participation in drafting and financially controlling space policy. It is established that, through the executive branch, the Space Activities Committee will submit to Congress a report and an annual program that will detail scheduled projects. The committee will request congressional approval for each individual project and an overall yearly budget for the space program.

The national space program must encompass the different national sectors that are directly involved in areas such as the science and technology, education and culture, economy, foreign affairs, defense, communications and environment, and the university and scientific academic sectors, and also in private industrial and business companies that play an important role today in the economic and technological modernization of the country.

When drafting the space program, which will be submitted to Congress annually, the Space Activities Committee will grant precedence to socioeconomic projects, the training of human resources, and the exploitation and proper use of already available technical equipment, institutions, and government installations that will be transferred by those organizations that are currently in charge of their management.

Another role for the commission will be to promote resolutely international cooperation through existing mechanisms or through new mechanisms that we will seek to establish with friendly countries that have done the appropriate research.

In that regard, special consideration will be given to the great importance of our partnership with the Federative Republic of Brazil, a country with which we have cooperated through a presidential declaration since August 1989. That declaration, which provides for bilateral cooperation in space, should be implemented through joint undertakings for our mutual benefit.

At the same time, efforts will be made to strengthen the relations established with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States, with which we are now analyzing a project for launching the (?SAC-B), the first Argentine satellite.

Implementation of that project will highlight the advantages of close cooperation with the countries that have the technology and the means that Argentina does not have today.

As part of the program, cooperation projects will also be promoted with the rest of Latin America. Cooperation with other European nations' space projects will be promoted, with full observance of multilateral instruments on the subject, seeking to help the nations of this continent to use space technology.

The new policy we are now announcing is imbued with a deep sense of responsibility. It is inspired by the belief that the exploration and exploitation of space is part of our legitimate national interest and is intimately linked with the material and spiritual growth of our country.

We are fully aware that some space technology features can be used for two purposes, that is, both for the peace and well-being of nations and for war and destruction.

That is why we would now like to state, as clearly as possible, that the Argentine space program will be a peace and cooperation program, and that it will be subject to all the safeguards provided for by our own laws and by international mechanisms.

In that regard, we reiterate that the Argentine Government—without precluding the intensification of its efforts to strengthen regional and world security—will exercise the strictest control and will give the international community all guarantees that sensitive technology will be responsibly managed. That applies in particular to the possible transfer of space technology to other nations.

Furthermore, in order to avoid any doubts about the exclusively peaceful nature of our space activities, we have decided to adhere to what is known as the Missile Technology Control Regime, an international mechanism aimed at controlling technology transfer seeking to preventing the proliferation of missile technology.

To conclude, I would like to talk about a current issue that is well known to everyone. The policy that the executive branch will enforce as of today will make it necessary for Argentina to seriously assume the consequences of some experiences of the past, experiences that resulted from actions that developed in a different internal political context and in an international situation that has now been overcome.

By virtue of the obligation stemming from that responsibility, the government some time ago decided to cancel the so-called Condor-2 project and to avoid taking any further steps on this type of use of space technology. Far from helping to preserve our own security, it made us more vulnerable, has intensified instability in other regions of the world, and has seriously jeopardized Argentina's prestige.

Consequently, the executive branch has ordered all elements, parts, and components of the Condor-2 missile that are currently under its jurisdiction to be deactivated, dismantled, reconverted and/or re-used in accordance with the possibility of using them for peaceful objectives. The project is therefore entirely, definitively, and irreversibly canceled, and the scientists, the facilities, and the material involved in the project are hereby transferred to the new National Commission for Space Activities [Comision Nacional de Actividades Espaciales].

In conclusion, it would be silly to ignore the fact that there are concerns within the Armed Forces. Armed Forces personnel are concerned about current salary levels, budget restrictions, and about the effects of the necessary rationalization process on personnel. The president of the Republic has urged the institution to accompany the process of change and to contribute its appropriate share of sacrifice so that all Argentines, civilians and military, contribute to the common goal of building a better future for ourselves and our children. The Armed Forces will undoubtedly support this call with their well-known altruism and spirit of sacrifice. Thank you.

Bolivia

Minister Comments on Progress in Peasant Talks

PY2405171691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno said in a news conference that the situation is normal nationwide:

[Saavedra] "The situation throughout the country is normal. The situation is calm in all social sectors. The last problem we had was the health sector's indefinite strike. In some departments, this sector is still on strike, but I contacted the health minister yesterday and he informed me that salaries are being paid."

The interior minister also commented on negotiations with the peasants:

[Saavedra] "I also held a meeting with peasant leaders. We have made progress on the discussion of certain topics, such as the Conadal [National Committee for Alternative Development] decree, which was one of the coca growers' first and most basic requirements. This decree has already been signed by the president of the Republic and by all the ministers. We must now hold a meeting to learn who will be the peasant leaders and then create a fund for the peasants who will act as advisers. We are currently analyzing the situation and we will then meet with peasant leaders to report on the progress that has been made."

Minister Saavedra said that the best way to solve national problems is through dialogue:

[Saavedra] "So far, the most constructive way of finding solutions to our problems has been dialogue. Through dialogue, the government calms the sectors of society that do not want this type of attitude. [sentence as heard] Dialogue also benefits the peasant sector because if we sit around a table ready to talk—not in an attempt to avoid meeting certain demands, but to analyze the requests and demands of the peasant sector—we will be helping the peasants."

Concluding the news conference, the minister commented on details of the upcoming visit by DEA Director Robert Bonner to Bolivia, when DEA work in the country will be evaluated:

[Saavedra] "Mr. Bonner will visit the country to check on DEA work in Bolivia. As you know, this work is very specific. It is not a physical effort but an intelligence effort that supports the actions of the special forces. On 27 May, Mr. Bonner will meet with President Paz Zamora. Later, he will meet with Interior Ministry officials to analyze the antidrug fight and the achievements of these two years in office. He will also study our current shortcomings and plans for future economic cooperation and for cooperation in the antidrug fight."

Leaders Criticize Security for DEA Chief Visit

PY2905143491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Report by Juan Carlos Zambrana from Radio Tropico in Trinidad, Beni Department]

[Text] Opposition leaders have criticized the almost unnoticed and brief visit to Trinidad by the chief of the North American DEA on 26 May.

On 26 May, while Trinidad was celebrating the festival of its patron saint and its founding anniversary, Mr. Robert Bonner arrived in the city and stayed for two hours, from 0900 to 1100. According to an unofficial report, he met with his agents who are providing support for Umopar [Rural Area Police Patrol Unit] intelligence tasks and operations. Mr. Bonner also talked with some Umopar command officers.

He later visited Loma Suarez, the base for the Navy's Blue Devils, who are in charge of the Pirana motorboats used for logistic support for antidrug operations on the river.

Opposition leaders criticized Mr. Bonner's visit due to the extreme security measures instituted by the Umopar.

Alex Arteaga, deputy for the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], said he had received complaints from several citizens because the Leopards [Umopar personnel] were intimidating the people with this type of action.

Arteaga also criticized the presence of Umopar personnel in the city, as their mission should be carried out in the countryside where the drug traffickers are located. He said these abuses will be reported directly to the Interior Ministry through the Beni congressional bloc.

Government 'Reviewing' U.S. Extradition Plan

PY2905145091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Dr. Gustavo Fernandez, minister of the Presidency, has said that the national unity government is thoroughly reviewing and studying U.S. proposals to make possible the extradition of Bolivian citizens to the United States and from the United States to our country.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] They are being reviewed. They are being examined. I am not going to use the word negotiation because that is not the level on which the joint analysis is being conducted.

[Reporter] Is this an issue to be analyzed?

[Fernandez] It is an issue to be analyzed. We will see how it works. The president has said it: We have a (?proposal) and we will see how it works. [end recording]

Dr. Gustavo Fernandez also reported that, during the first quarter of this fiscal year, the rate of eradication of coca crops has declined in comparison with 1990.

Parties Reject Accord

PY2905120091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Today, all the country's political parties voiced their disagreement with the U.S. Government's attempt to sign an extradition accord with the Paz Zamora administration. Both the opposition and official sectors expressed their disagreement and concern over this matter.

Morgan Lopez, deputy of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, pointed out that the extradition of Bolivian drug traffickers must not be allowed. [recorded passage indistinct]

Commander Says Army Not To Attack Coca Growers

PY2805163491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Army will not enter coca-producing areas nor will it clash with coca farmers. This statement was made by General Jorge Moreira Rojas, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Moreira recording] The Army will not act against coca producers. This is part of the Army plan—which only involves one batallion—through which, initially, it will only enter under special circumstances and in determined areas.

The Special Antinarcotics Force is another thing. I understand they are carrying out a sort of [words indistinct]. As far as the Army is concerned, there is absolutely no problem. [end recording]

Brazil

U.S. Chemical Weapon Ban Proposal Supported

PY2405174591 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Brazil supports a U.S. proposal to eliminate chemical weapon stocks. Brazil also advocates the signing of an international treaty that seeks to set deadlines and mechanisms for implementing this measure.

According to Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, the Brazilian position was expressed by President Collor in a letter to President George Bush. The position upheld by the two countries should be included in a joint declaration to be signed during President Collor's visit to Washington between 18 and 22 June.

Central Bank Fights Suits Over New Cruzados

PY2505180491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 May 91

[Report by Sonia Filgueiras]

[Text] Central Bank lawyers have said that if the Sao Paulo courts authorize the release of all new cruzados frozen in that state, the economic plan will be harmed beyond repair. It is estimated that nearly 50 percent of all the frozen new cruzados in Brazil are concentrated in Sao Paulo State. The Sao Paulo attorney general has filed a lawsuit demanding the immediate release of the frozen money. The lawsuit is still being processed by Sao Paulo courts and the ruling will be known next week.

The case in Sao Paulo is worrisome for other reasons. The Sao Paulo courts are systematically ruling in favor of lifting the freeze. Even the regional federal court in Sao Paulo issued similar rulings.

The battle for new cruzados in the rest of the states is beginning to be won by the government. Through the Federal Supreme Court, the Central Bank has already obtained the rejection of rulings in favor of releasing new cruzados in Pernambuco State, where 18 similar cases are being processed. Meanwhile, in Parana State, a judge rejected a petition to release new cruzados filed by the Parana attorney general, in a case similar to that in Sao Paulo.

Chamber Approves Alternative Informatics Bill

PY2505013291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies has approved the alternative bill of the National Informatics and Automation Plan [Planin]. The Planin, which was approved through an agreement between government and opposition bloc leaders, does not include regulations on the establishment of joint ventures [two preceding words in English].

In addition, the alternative bill does not include a regulation guaranteeing that market protectionism, which is to expire in November 1992, will be extended for three more years after the approval of the Planin.

Through the agreement, the government commits itself to study the establishment of joint ventures during the debate that will ensue during the vote on the Planin law which the Chamber of Deputies has granted priority status.

Foundation Notes Price Increases Despite Freeze

PY2905121691 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 May 91 p 4

[Summary] According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, from 1 February to 30 April wholesale prices increased by 42.59 percent and retail prices by 36.92 percent, despite the price freeze. The most serious increase came in food prices, in which wholesale prices increased by 70.97 percent during the period and retail prices 36.06 percent. Wholesale prices for consumer goods increased by 44.9 percent, while retail prices went up by 40.75 percent. Wholesale prices for construction materials increased by 29.34 percent, while retail prices in the same field went up 26.57 percent.

'Capital Flight' Reportedly Rising Under Collor

PY2705151691 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 May 91 Section 1 p 8

[Summary] The latest issue of the IMF publication INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL STATISTICS reports that in March 1990, when the Collor 1 Plan was implemented, Brazilian bank deposits abroad stood at $16.3 billion. The deposit level remained nearly unchanged for the next three months, after which it totaled $16.5 million. By the end of September, however, Brazilian deposits abroad had risen to $17 billion. The volume of Brazilian capital flight has surpassed the corresponding numbers of Argentina and Venezuela, which stood at $16.2 billion and $16.6 billion, respectively, in September 1990.

GDP Dropped 6.87 Percent Over Past Year

PY2805120091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 91 p 1

[Summary] The Brazilian GDP went down 6.87 percent from April 1990 to March 1991. During President Collor's first year in office, the GDP experienced its largest drop since it began being registered in 1941. Industrial production has also decreased by 13 percent over the same period.

Chile

Explosion at Army Ordnance Plant Kills One

PY3005035291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 91

[(Aldo Bosic) relay from Talagante]

[Excerpts] One person was killed and at least 15 injured as a result of an explosion this afternoon at an Army gunpowder drying plant at the FAMAE [Army Ordnance] facilities. This gunpowder drying plant, which is part of an Army chemical and industrial plant, exploded at 1420 causing great alarm in the area due to the violence of the explosion.

According to an official Army communique, civilian employee Eduardo Alvarez Catalan was killed. Three of the 15 injured people are reportedly in a serious condition and have been taken to hospitals in Santiago. The remaining people only sustained slight injuries and were sent home. [passage omitted]

According to the neighbors, the explosion took place in an eight-story building where a large quantity of gunpowder was stored. From what can be seen from the distance, there is nothing left of the building. [passage omitted]

Center Center Party Leader Wounded by Terrorists

PY3005024291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] This afternoon Carlos Arroyo (Hodger), secretary general of the Center Center Party, suffered bullet wounds during an incident which took place in the Los Presidentes neighborhood.

According to information obtained at first aid post No. 3, where Arroyo received medical assistance, he suffered bullet wounds in his left and right buttocks. Arroyo said he had been attacked by individuals who claimed to belong to the Lautaro Movement. The individuals fled in Arroyo's car.

Arroyo arrived at the first aid post around 1830, and he was taken to a private hospital around 1900. He is out of danger.

Carabineros Station No. 22 handled this police case.

Use of 'Fast Track' Negotiation Method Viewed

PY3005004791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (EFE)—Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], today applauded the fact that the U.S. Congress has approved the "fast track" for drafting free trade agreements within Latin America.

Rosenthal added: "It is of vital importance for Latin America that the multilateral negotiations within the GATT continue and are finally achieved."

The "fast track" [two preceding words in English] is used for drafting laws or international agreements in the U.S. Congress, once they have been approved by the administration. They are subject only to a global vote by the chamber [not specified], which approves or rejects them as a whole, not point by point.

U.S. President George Bush has asked the U.S. Congress to use the "fast track" as an extension of the special powers that were granted him on 24 May, powers that make the GATT negotiations and the negotiations that have been started for the creation of free trade zones in the American continent move more quickly.

Rosenthal indicated that the negotiations between the United States and Mexico for the creation of a free trade zone are now entering a crucial stage that marks "a milestone in Inter-American relations."

"Mexico's opportunity to increase its links with the United States does not contradict its desire to strengthen Latin American integration," Rosenthal stated.

He maintained that Mexico is seeking special deals simultaneously with Central American countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Nicaragua), Colombia, Chile, and Venezuela.

He also indicated that the model being used by Mexico in its negotiations with the United States and Canada could serve as a precedent for other countries of the region.

President Aylwin Pardons 20 Political Prisoners

PY2505012691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 May 91

[Excerpt] Using the prerogative granted to him by Congress, President Patricio Aylwin has pardoned 20 political prisoners. The president rejected one request because it involved charges of terrorism.

Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido reported:

[Begin Cumplido recording] There are no other pardon requests that can be decided now. All other cases of political prisoners are following due process. The president approved a total of 20 requests and rejected one. Only those pardon requests involving individuals currently on trial are pending. A request has been sent to the Supreme Court asking it to appoint alternate judges in several areas so that judges hearing cases of political prisoners can dedicate all their time to adjudicating them. The government wants those trials to end quickly so that the president can use his prerogative to decide on the pertinent pardon requests. [end recording]

Cumplido said there are 38 pardon requests affecting prisoners who have not been sentenced and that trials must end before the president can decide on those requests. [passage omitted]

* Mercosur, Andean Pact Countries Analyzed

91SM0302B Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Mar 91 p 1C

[Commentary by economics editor Silvertio Gomez C.: "Mercosur Versus Andean Pact"]

[Text] A few days after the announcement that a free-trade zone was being established among the Andean countries after more than 20 years of "frustration," Argentina and Brazil announced the same sort of intention last week and left Uruguay and Paraguay "hanging."

The Andean Pact is not more important than the project of the Southern Cone countries because it was established first or because it has been in the works longer. The numbers involved in each of the pacts speak for themselves.

The four Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market] countries have a population of 195 million, twice as many as the five Andean countries. Their Gross Domestic Product comes to $450 billion, compared to $145 billion for the Andean countries. Brazil's economy is five times larger than Venezuela's, and Argentina's is twice as large as Colombia's. The four Mercosur countries' exports total $45 billion, of which very little is oil, whereas the Andean countries' exports amount to $30 billion, $17 billion of which are fossil fuels.

The countries that belong to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) will be able to apply for membership in Mercosur; an application will be considered in less than five years if the applicant does not belong to any other subregional or extraregional vehicle for integration. There is a reason for this condition.

Bolivia presents the first dilemma right away, since although it belongs to the Andean Group, it conducts more of its trade with the Southern Cone. In 1989 its trade with Argentina totaled $323.5 million (with a surplus of $134.5 million) and with Brazil $166.2 million (posting a deficit of $71.4 million). In contrast, its trade with its Andean Pact partners (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) during that same year amounted to just $50.5 million, most of it with Peru.

Trade between Colombia and Venezuela is the "savior" of the Cartagena Agreement. But the figures are very modest. In 1990, our exports to our neighbor totaled just $200 million, while our imports were close to $500 million.

The Andean Pact countries have three advantages over Mercosur: they have very low inflation rates; they export oil, and foreign indebtedness has not ravaged them as it has Argentina and Brazil.

One has the impression, however, that Mercosur is not ruling out the possibility of swallowing up the Cartagena Agreement. This is why Brazil's foreign minister, Francisco Rezek, said that in the medium term the common market would spread beyond the four countries that signed the Asuncion Treaty.

In the meantime, Chile is in the driver's seat. Its decision will tip the balance scale on integration. It has the advantages of the Andean countries, a thriving, growing market, and proximity to both blocs.

Will Mercosur allow Chile to return to the Andean Group? Will it give it incentives to stay put? Or will there be another call for a Latin American free-trade zone, like 30 years ago?

* Pinera Describes Growth of Noncopper Exports

91SM0301A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Apr 91 pp B1, B12

[Article by German Maldonado]

[Text] Nagoya, Japan—Undersecretary of Finance Pablo Pinera has made the statement here that on the basis of the trend seen in recent years, noncopper exports should account for about 70 percent of the total volume of Chile's foreign sales by 1995.

He also said that to date this growth has been greatly aided by the production of goods involving intensive use of natural resources, and that "the time has come to move forward substantively toward exports of products involving a greater added value, taking advantage of the skill and creativity of the Chilean workers, businessmen, and professional people."

Thus, continuing to identify the year 1995 as the target year, Pinera said that it is expected that the goods exported will account for 35 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product].

The undersecretary delivered an address in his capacity as alternate Chilean governor of the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] (the titular governor is Minister Foxley) to a meeting of that body in Nagoya. His speech, which ran to only six pages, was delivered at noon on 8 April, following those delivered by the representatives of Venezuela and Ecuador.

On this occasion, the secretary of state spoke about the economic situation of the country, as well as the priorities established by the government of President Aylwin. He emphasized that the process of adjustment which has been implemented during the past year "established the foundations for healthy future growth."

He also pointed out that at the present time, the nation has a solid reserve position, equivalent to the value of more than nine months of imports.

As to the prospects for 1991, Pinera said that inflation is not expected to exceed 18 percent, with product growth of about 5 percent.

Parallel with this, the undersecretary of finance spoke about the social policy which the authorities have implemented, noting in passing that the expenditures channeled into the most neglected sectors have been increased. However, he maintained, the increases in these resources are only authorized when there is financing collected in a noninflationary manner.

Recommendations for the Bank

On this occasion, Pinera emphasized the need for the IDB to adapt to the new demands of the Latin American economies.

In this connection, he said that the Bank should seek means of providing direct financing to the private sector, in particular the large investment projects undertaken by those enterprises which have been transferred to the private sector.

"To achieve this end, an effort can be made to develop formulas whereby the country provides guarantees covering the political risks, and to find various private financial agents who will guarantee the commercial risks of the projects."

In Pinera's view, the process of transfer to the private sector will be discouraged unless this is done, because on being privatized, public enterprises "would no longer have access to the multilateral bodies as sources of financing."

Chile and Mexico

The experience of Chile and Mexico and the progress they have made in the realm of adjustments and privatization programs have been stressed repeatedly by the various speakers and banking officials attending this meeting. However, the perceptible friction between the two nations which are attempting to attract foreign investment and to make their successes ever more obvious has not gone unnoticed, either.

Now, in assessing the situation at this time, the question which arises has to do with what will happen in the near future when other countries are able to boast of similar successes. After all, there are a number of nations pursuing the same path on which chile embarked four or five years ago.

Colombia

Letter From Father Garcia to Pablo Escobar

PA3005030291 Bogota Inravision Television Cadenas 1 and 2 in Spanish 2356 GMT 29 May 91

[Letter from Father Rafael Garcia to Pablo Escobar Gaviria; date not given —read by Father Garcia on the "Minute of God" feature segment]

[Text] Dearest Pablo: I want to express to you my mental suffering over the fact that you may be placed in a dungeon for several years. However, the president told me that you will be treated well. You are a man who honors his word and always abides by it. The president's wife, Ana Milena, who is the most beautiful and intelligent woman in Colombia, also told me that you will be treated well.

Tell me, where shall I come to get you? I think that the point of the white colt [el potro blanco] or the mare [la yegua] is a good place. You understand what I am saying.

The general [not further identified] also told me that there will not be an operation against either of us. In sum, he is a nice man. I want to take advantage of your return and your stay at the Peace University [universidad de la paz] to request the return of some Extraditables from the United States. I think that we should take advantage of this opportunity to benefit Colombia. You know how much I love Colombia. You also have an opportunity to serve it.

We may possibly turn a few jails into large centers of rehabilitation and culture. Commend yourself to the Holy Cross, like your little daughter does.

I am told here that I am in your favor, but I want everybody's well-being. Most people are happy over what I am doing for your sake. Thank God they cannot say that you have bought me, because I have not received, nor will I receive in the future, one peso or one dollar from you. I do not even know how much money you have. It is possible that we will spend some money building universities and turning jails into cultural institutes. Do you like this idea?

Did you know that somebody gave me a lovely horse? I am going to sell it to build a beautiful house for a poor family.

When I go there, send me the same driver, the one who studied in Canada.

Lehder told me that he wanted me to go to the United States to hear his confession, and perhaps I will go. We also have to bring Lehder back.

Well, Pablo, I am told here that I have caused some confusion because the people do not know if when I refer to Pablo I am referring to San Pablo [Saint Paul] or yourself. Some people call here to inquire in an ironic manner about the novena of San Pablo Escobar, and they are very annoying.

I would like to bring you here to the "Minute of God" segment, but we would create a controversy. I do not know what they will think about this letter that I wrote you. Perhaps Colombians will like it because they all sympathize with my ideas. The people ask if you are going to turn yourself in or not. Sixty percent of the people say yes, that you will turn yourself in. I am positive that you will. Do not leave me in a bad position.

[Signed] Rafael

Peace Talks Will 'Definitely' Begin 3 Jun

PA3005044691 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 91

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez]

[Text] It was learned today that the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] will definitely meet on Monday, 3 June, at the headquarters of the Studies Institute of Simon Bolivar University in Caracas.

Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly today proposed the creation of a mechanism that will give political participation to the rebels, should they decide to lay down their weapons.

We are talking business, after it was learned that the Constituent Assembly commission that will travel to Caracas will not be a nonparticipant at the talks. Today, the approval of a temporary article allowing the rebels who demobilize to join government agencies, such as congress, was proposed at the Constituent Assembly. The mechanism for the implementation of this article would be the same that allowed EPL [Popular Liberation Army], Quintin Lame, and PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] representatives to join the Constituent Assembly. This mechanism would be implemented as a result of the little time remaining before the Constituent Assembly adjourns.

[Begin April 19 Movement leader Antonio Navarro Wolff recording] More than a message, this represents the historic continuation of the peace process, the honesty of public discussion and democratic norms. [end recording]

In addition, April 19 Movement leader Antonio Navarro Wolff proposed the elimination of prerequisites and restrictions for the rebels who may be hoping to run for a popularly elected position. Coupled with these proposals, the Constituent Assembly delegates would guarantee the CNG representatives the endorsement of radical social, political, and economic reforms. [end recording]

[Begin Carlos Rodalo recording, member of the Constituent Assembly Verification Commission] The reforms are the antidote to the revolution and rebellion, because they peacefully propose the changes that are trying to be imposed in a violent manner, thus anticipating the rebellion. [end recording]

Both sides are trying to obtain positive results from the talks that will begin on 3 June in Caracas.

Guerrillas To Receive Safe-Conducts for Talks

PA2905172491 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The government has announced that the Administrative Department of Security will issue immigration safe-conducts to the guerrillas who will travel to Caracas to participate in the peace dialogue between the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] and President Cesar Gaviria's administration.

Official sources have announced that Army helicopters will transfer the CNG delegates from various sites to a strategic area within national territory. It was disclosed that Venezuelan Government delegates, one constituent assembly member, and one delegate from the presidential advisory for peace affairs will each travel on the Colombian Air Force helicopters to guarantee the safety of the guerrillas.

CNG Appoints 'High-Level' Talks Commission

PA2505195091 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Bogota—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] has appointed a high-level commission led by Alfonso Cano to travel to Caracas and participate in the peace talks with Cesar Gaviria Trujillo's administration on 1 June. According to the CNG's decision, the commission will include 10 commanders and 10 companions, who will leave from the various FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and ELN [Army of National Liberation] fronts that operate in the country. The CNG decided to comprise the commission with leading members so that they would have decisionmaking power and speed up the talks that will be renewed in Caracas on 1 June.

It is believed that Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana will be leading the delegation which represents President Gaviria's administration. The FARC and ELN representatives will meet next week to establish their starting point and arrange travel to Venezuela. The task for the next few hours will be to

establish and define the mechanisms to grant guarantees for their travel. This will be done through a radio that has been supplied by the Presidency of the Republic.

[Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1832 GMT on 25 May carried a one-minute report that "the government announced at noon today that there will be a meeting with CNG members tomorrow, to define the agenda of the dialogue scheduled for 1 June in Caracas. The names of the government and guerrilla members who will meet in Caracas will be determined during the meeting, which will be held in Bogota tomorrow."]

Pacific Coast Group Occupies Haitian Embassy

PA2505134591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1757 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] A group of Indians and blacks peacefully occupied the Haitian Embassy in Bogota. The group, which came from the Pacific coast, is demanding the recognition of its culture in the new constitution. The occupants spent the night in the diplomatic mission, located in northern Bogota. This morning, they were received by Deputy Government Minister Andres Gonzalez.

They left the Haitian Embassy with the hope of achieving what they have been unable to accomplish in 500 years of existence: their rights as a black ethnic group. Seven men and five women from Quibdo, who belong to a black group that has been forgotten by the government, came to Bogota for the first time hoping to have their voices heard.

[Begin recording of embassy occupant Elisa Mena] As a black group they have never taken us into account. They have always rejected us. We complain and complain and we are tired of this. We have come to seek solidarity from our Haitian friends. [end recording]

They are aware that the best opportunity they have to stop being forgotten is to have the Constitution recognize their land rights. After two hours of talks, the government promised them that a commission will travel to Quibdo to learn about the problems they are facing there.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We have brought a concrete proposal. We have been told that until the blacks and Indians leave the offices they are occupying, the government will not provide a solution. The government has decided to send a commission to learn about their difficulties. I believe the mood is positive; there is a moderate optimism because we know about the difficulties of the dialogue process. We agreed to travel on 1 June to Quibdo. We have to do everything to make this possible. The government has offered all the guarantees and all the necessary means so these people can travel. [end recording]

Army, President Agree on Drug Trafficking Issue

PA2405195991 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Barranquilla—Presidential security adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda has said here that there is no disagreement between President Cesar Gaviria and the Armed Forces on the issue of drug trafficking. Pardo said that the government's firm policy on violence has been accepted at all government levels. Referring to recent remarks by Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo, he added that the government cannot relinquish certain functions.

After highlighting the government's accomplishments in its efforts to bring those who are violent under Colombia's administration of justice, Pardo said that Medellin cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria has not made any special demands on the government for him to surrender. He also pointed out that President Gaviria is kept informed of Father Rafael Garcia Herreros' contacts with Escobar Gaviria.

Assembly Approves Executive, Legislative Changes

PA2905125991 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Bogota—After an ardous workday, the National Constituent Assembly made important changes in the executive and legislative branches by approving a two-round presidential election and reducing the size of congress.

According to the articles approved last night, if no candidate manages to garner more than 50 percent of the votes during the first presidential round, the two candidates receiving the most votes will face each other in a run-off election 28 days later.

The congress will continue to have two chambers, but now will have fewer members. Senate members will be elected through nationwide elections and will serve for four years while chamber of representative members will be elected through regional elections and serve for two years.

The Assembly also replaced the post of presidential designate with that of vice president of the Republic.

* Statistics Show Doubling of Guerrilla Violence

91SM0302C Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Apr 91 pp 1A, 9A

[Report by EL TIEMPO staff writer Edgar Tellez]

[Text] This year there has been a guerrilla attack every five hours on the economic system, the communications network, or the country's road infrastructure. In other words, in January, February, and March there were 486 indiscriminate, criminal terrorist acts that wound up hurting businessmen, campesinos, and average citizens.

This escalation was accompanied by a dramatic increase in kidnapping. During the first 90 days of 1991 the

guerrillas took 231 persons hostage. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) top this grim list with 132 cases.

The authorities attribute 89 kidnappings for financial ends to the ELN [Army of National Liberation], five to the dissident faction of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], and one to the M-19 [19 April Movement].

The report reveals, however, that during this period organized crime ordered and carried out most of the kidnappings: 174.

Moreover, in ambushes and bombings, almost all by surprise, the rebels have murdered 207 members of the armed forces, wounded 307, and kidnapped 74. In cross fire the rebels have killed 51 civilians.

In their counteroffensive the army and the police have managed to kill 312 guerrillas and capture 455 others, who were then handed over to the courts.

A Defense Ministry report delivered to EL TIEMPO yesterday indicates that the destructive capacity of the FARC and the ELN is virtually the same.

So far this year the men of Manuel Marulanda ("Tirofijo"), the chief of the FARC, have launched 252 attacks, mainly in Valle (52), Cundinamarca (44), Santander (50), the Magdalena Medio in Antioquia (25), Antioquia (21), Atlantico and Bolivar (16), and Huila (7).

The ELN has launched 231 attacks, most on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. It has also conducted 55 raids along the Atlantic Coast, 74 in Antioquia, 61 in Santander, and 35 in Antioquia's Magdalena Medio in the jurisdiction of Puerto Berrio.

During this period 11 towns have also been occupied, five of them in the Cauca Valley. On 52 occasions guerrillas have halted caravans of vehicles, engaged in political propaganda, and then destroyed the vehicles. Another 22 cars have been held up and their occupants stripped of their belongings. In all cases the victims were individuals of modest means.

The official report on these three months shows that guerrillas have harassed police or military installations on 29 occasions and ambushed patrols that were maintaining law and order 13 times with dynamite. There have also been 28 holdups of lending institutions (all of them during the takeover of towns).

The Counteroffensive

The military sources consulted by this paper revealed that the number of victims in the heavy fighting between the armed forces and the guerrillas is worrisome.

A comparison with the same period in 1990 shows that the death toll has almost doubled. From January to March of last year 123 members of the army and police were killed; this year the figure is 207.

In 1991, the list of armed forces deaths shows that in the army four officers, nine noncommissioned officers, and 60 enlisted men have been killed.

In the police, five officers, 17 noncommissioned officers, and 112 agents have fallen.

The statistics on the wounded have also skyrocketed, as in 1990 there were 174 and this year there have been 307.

As for missing persons, that is to say, members of the armed forces in the hands of the guerrillas, the Defense Ministry has reported that they total 74: seven enlisted men and two civilians from the army, 10 naval infantrymen, and two officers, one noncommissioned officer, 49 agents, and three civilians from the police.

The rebels have not had it any easier, as their casualties have also been heavy. A year ago these lawless groups lost 153 combatants. This year, the army and the police have upped that number to 312; in other words, a guerrilla has died every six hours.

The FARC have been the hardest hit, as they have left 148 of their men and women on the battlefield. The ELN has suffered 52 casualties.

Nonetheless, the number of captured subversives from the two groups is down. In 1990, security services managed to apprehend 639 individuals; this year the number has fallen to 455.

The uncontrolled subversive attacks on all sorts of targets have wreaked havoc among the defenseless civilian population. According to the official report, this year the FARC have executed 43 campesinos, the ELN eight, and other members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator (CGSB) four. Some had been identified as informants for the authorities. The others lost their lives in cross fire.

Logistics

Huge amounts of military hardware and logistic supports have been confiscated from the guerrillas.

During these three months 87 rifles, 45 carbines, 38 submachine-guns, 186 revolvers, 130 pistols, 205 grenades, 213 shotguns, 384 rifle clips, and 29,498 ammunition rounds for various caliber weapons have been seized.

The troops have also recovered 155 pieces of field equipment, 56 army uniforms, 178 police uniforms, 29 hammocks, and 19 mosquito nets.

Military operations have also diminished the guerrillas' communications capabilities, as they have lost 44 high-power radios and 11 battery chargers.

The subversives have also abandoned three station wagons, 20 cars, eight motorcycles, one truck, and one motorboat.

Violence in the First Quarter of 1991

Dead, Wounded, Captured

	Guerrillas	Police and Military
Dead	312	207
Wounded	0	307
Captured	455	74

Kidnappings

Group	Number
Quintin Lame	4
EPL	5
ELN	89
FARC	132
Organized crime	175
Total	405

Terrorist Acts

Group	Number
EPL	3
Organized crime	119
ELN	231
FARC	282
Total	635

Civilians Killed by the Guerrillas

Group	Number
Quintin Lame	2
EPL	2
FARC	23
ELN	24
Total	51

* CA Commission Proposes Lower Legal Age

91SM0302A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
22 Mar 91 pp 1A, 14A

[Text] A subcommission of the First Commission of the Constituent Assembly [CA], which is looking into the preamble and general principles of the new constitution, has proposed a legal age of 17, one less than the current one.

The door would thus be opened for thousands of young people to have direct input in government decision-making. Moreover, the voter base would be broadened, and the country's political landscape would be substantially altered in the years to come, most likely benefiting new political groups.

Regarding a separate electoral matter, another subcommission has proposed that compulsory voting be established in the country. This would noticeably increase the number of registered voters, estimated today at 14 million.

The subcommission that is looking into the general principles of the constitution submitted for the commission's consideration the first 16 articles of the first draft; there was debate only on the first eight, however, including the legal age.

Invoking God

There was also a consensus to continue invoking God in the new constitution as the "foundation of human dignity and the source of life and authority for the common good."

There was also debate on where sovereignty resides, whether with the nation or the people. According to the subcommission's draft, it must reside with the people. The administration so proposed in its draft. Nevertheless, Raimundo Emiliani Roman, from the National Salvation Movement (MSN), said that making sovereignty reside with the people would mean having it in many places and allowing it to be exercised by any group of individuals.

"A situation such as the one that arose in Tumaco, where they wanted to hold a plebiscite to join Ecuador, could be legitimized," Emiliani said.

Yesterday's debate was the First Commission's first official one on draft articles, although it clarified that it would be examining them with the prescribed rigor only after the text has been published in the Constitutional Gazette, probably within two weeks.

Emiliani's position, to the effect that sovereignty ought to to reside in the nation, as the current constitution reads, was also backed by delegate Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero of the MSN.

Furthermore, Dario Mejia, from the Popular Liberation Army, said that the State should do more than just safeguard life, honor, and property, as the existing constitution prescribes; it should also extend such protection to all Colombians who live or are traveling overseas. He based his stand on the poor treatment that Colombians tend to receive when they leave the country.

For merely statutory reasons the commission did not approve any text, but the report submitted yesterday was acknowledged publicly because of its high quality.

The members of the subcommission include Misael Pastrana Borrero (the chairman of the commission), Jaime Ortiz Hurtado, Francisco Rojas, Alberto Zalamea, and Alvaro Leyva.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Official Views Election Results

PY2905175591 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
29 May 91 p 5

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Luis Maria Argana, president of the ANR [National Republican Association] (Colorado Party) Executive Board, in this note focuses on aspects of the party's current situation. "First, I want you to understand that my opinion is strictly personal and that we make up an institutional, organized party. So far our party, our autonomous bloc, has not yet met to make a political evaluation.

I want to stress that the results of the elections reflect just the opposite of what had been said, that the Colorado Party was preparing a fraud etc.; had the Colorado Party prepared a fraud, surely Filizzola would not have won. This means that the game was clean, and Filizzola won in Asuncion. We have not yet studied the reasons for this victory, but the first impression is that he won the elections justly. It is a victory for him, and we must admit it.

Now, whenever things like this happens, an overall evaluation is usually made, not only of Asuncion but of all towns throughout the country.

"I noticed that the Colorado Party won in 141 localities, and I think the radicals [the Authentic Radical Liberal Party—PLRA] won in about 31 localities, and for this reason I believe that the national victory belongs to the Colorado Party. The people currently believe that what happened in Asuncion, which is only one sector, is an indicator of the Paraguayan political situation. For this reason they are very impressed by the victory of Filizzola, an achievement which we cannot deny.

Nevertheless, the Colorado Party must investigate and study the causes because as I see it, the Colorado Party has an overwhelming majority. You must have seen that this time there were many more voters than in the ANR internal elections. This means that there was considerable indifference and that Filizzola won with the votes of Colorado Party members.

I think Filizzola obtained two types of votes: First, the votes of public employees who support Filizzola because he represents the public employees' demands; and second, the votes of the Colorado Party Youth. The Colorado Party Youth has been pushed aside from political activities for three years. Three years ago the Committee for Youth Affairs issued some resolutions forbidding the organization of youth centers. Not a single youth center has been created, not a single youth statute has been issued, and obviously that youth has gone astray with no leadership, with no guidance. For this reason I believe that the Colorado Party Youth voted for Filizzola, and the Committee for Students Affairs is responsible for this fact.

For the time being, I think this is all I can say, because this is my personal opinion. I still have to talk to many friends. I have to make an assessment of the situation. We are a party that performs in an institutional manner and so we have to talk among ourselves and make a real evaluation. Moreover, not all the results have arrived yet.

We can say that despite the errors of the Central Electoral Board [JEC], which three months ago had the voting list concluded and, according to reports which I believe to be true, had the support of the Armed Forces to distribute the lists by all possible means, there were places that by 1000 or 1100 in the morning had not received the voting list.

It seems that the JEC did not have enough paper, it did not have anything. Juan Esteche Fanego [former president of the JEC] told me that the JEC received 2 billion guaranies. So, we have to ask how the money was spent because voting lists were missing, ballot tables were not organized, and people did not know who would pay the bills. We have to ask many questions.

Argana said that on 29 May (that is today) the executive board will hold a closed meeting so that all executive members can make a real and honest analysis of what really happened. I think we still have time to correct mistakes before 1993 [slated date for next general elections]. This is obviously a slip up because I think that in the country, in the end, the party came out the winner before public opinion, particularly before the international public opinion which is very interested in developments in Asuncion.

I think this will be a call to reality. We must rethink our handling, our relations with the Colorado Party Youth. We have to reorganize the Central Electoral Board which is obviously not up to the expectations of the citizens and the president of the Republic. We also have to study our party's shortcomings in all these situations. This implies a change in strategy, in tactics. We obviously have to recognize our mistakes and make changes.

Asked about the party leadership's lack of support to party candidate Juan Manuel Morales, Argana said: "I do not know to whom he is referring, if he is referring to the Colorado Party precinct presidents, to the executive board, I do not know, I did not hear what he said. The president of the party cannot do more than he did.

"We gave Morales official support. We accompanied him and gave him the resources available to the party because we no longer have the resources that other institutions, other parties, have from international organizations. You already know that party collections have decreased from 160 million guaranies to 18 million guaranies a month if we follow the Electoral Code [as published]. The party spent around 800 million to 1 billion guaranies on this registration system that was a mistake and had tremendous shortcomings.

Naturally, I think that the party and the executive board have given every support to Morales. I do not know whether the precinct presidents gave him all their support. I do not know how he worked with the grassroots because it is obvious that Carlos Filizzola went door to door and the results are there for everyone to see. All these points must be analyzed, not criticized or judged.

Peru

Security Increased Against 'Armed Strike'

PY3005030891 Madrid EFE in English 0001 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Lima, May 29 (EFE)—Maoist "Shining Path" rebels killed a National Police captain and wounded two others in an ambush in the Peruvian capital Wednesday, officials said.

The bomb attack occurred in the Lima district of San Martin de Porras.

President Alberto Fujimori's government ordered stepped-up police patrols in the capital Wednesday in anticipation of rebel attacks.

Shining Path took over a radio station in the capital Monday to announce an "armed strike", threatening violence against people who did not stop work.

Privately-owned public transport vehicles generally stayed off the streets, stranding thousands of commuters, because of the rebels' threat.

Suspected Shining Path guerrillas destroyed several buses on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

The government deployed soldiers on state-owned buses, which ran their routes normally.

On Tuesday, the guerrillas torched a train station and blew up two bank offices in the Lima area, causing heavy damage but no injuries, police said.

About 10 Shining Path rebels overpowered guards and three workers at the train station in Santa Clara, 30 km east of the capital, and set it ablaze with petrol bombs, police said.

The guerrillas also burned two public transport buses in Lima and launched grenades at two bank offices, causing considerable damage.

Earlier Tuesday, a bomb exploded in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, but no one was injured. It was the second attack on Peruvian ministry buildings in two days.

On Monday, a bomb exploded in the Economy Ministry in central Lima, causing damage but no casualties.

Also Monday, unidentified attackers set fire to files in the municipal office of San Martin de Porras and attacked the headquarters of the Peruvian Air Force Officers Association.

The rebel action came during strikes by half a million public workers pressing for higher wages.

Shining Path, which has killed thousands of people in its 11-year-old insurgency, has successfully called armed strikes in the past in the Andean cities of Ayacucho and Huancayo.

But workers in Lima have generally failed to heed the rebels' armed strikes.

Attacks Precede Stoppage

PY2905141291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0303 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 May (EFE)—Police sources have reported that a train station and at least two passenger buses were set on fire today and that two local bank branches were attacked with explosives in different areas of Lima. The attacks caused considerable property damage but no casualties.

According to the sources, these attacks—attributed to members of the "Shining Path" terrorist group—were carried out on the eve of an "armed stoppage," a strike carried out under threat of death, which this Maoist organization has called for in Lima.

The Santa Clara train station, which is some 30 km east of Lima and which belongs to the state Central Railways Company, was set afire by 10 Shining Path members who threw firebombs after subduing the local guard, the telegraph operator, and two other workers.

Two buses belonging to the state urban transport company were set on fire in districts on the outskirts of Lima, while terrorists in the La Victoria neighborhood of downtown Lima threw bombs at two bank offices.

This morning a bomb went off in a bathroom at the Transportation and Communication Ministry, near the office of Minister Jaime Yoshiyama, causing property damage but no casualties. [passage omitted]

Senator Views Government's Antiterrorist Plan

PY2705165891 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 8

[Excerpts] According to IU [United Left] leader Gustavo Mohme, the request for special powers to fight subversion within a strategy that gives priority to the military aspect of the struggle and implements a policy of assassinations, disappearances, and genocide is unacceptable.

Mohme stressed that the goal must be to radically change that strategy and implement an integrated struggle based on the consolidation of democracy, structural reforms, and popular participation.

Mohme said that only then will military action become legitimate, taking on the strength provided by the support of a population willing to defend pacification.

Mohme pointed out that the government is sending contradictory signals because the president of the council of ministers is proposing the creation of a National Pacification Commission while the interior minister is saying that the Armed Forces must assume the lead.

Mohme also said that the official policy is one of dirty war and that local leaders are being confused with terrorists, with tragic consequences. [passage omitted]

Mohme denounced the military's killing of the peasant and leftist leaders of Huaral, which has unleashed an irrational war logic.

This policy only helps the Shining Path grow and discourages the social and political forces that must be the pillars of the fight against subversion, Mohme added.

The IU leader expressed concern over the growing insecurity of the people due to the inability and corruption of the police. The government's inaction in view of the deterioration of the police force is incredible, Mohme said.

Mohme said criminal activity by police personnel is increasing and that those responsible must be tried in common courts.

Mohme said the government must present the guidelines of its strategy to the people to establish a dialogue aimed at finding the most appropriate legal channels to speed up decisions and make viable a new strategy.

Regrettably, the government is not of the same opinion and has requested more power to continue on a path that has failed for 10 years of struggle. This strategy will only lead to increased violence and to a narrowing of the democratic space, Mohme concluded.

Roundup of Terrorist Activities Outlined

PY2705223091

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on terrorist activities in Peru compiled from Peruvian papers published between 14 May and 16 May. Publication information is given in parentheses after each item.

On 9 May 1991, Juliaca police recaptured subversive Elizabeth Aida Ochoa Mamani of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, MRTA, who escaped with Victor Polay Campos and 47 other MRTA members in July 1990. During this operation, the police also captured the following subversives: Luis Alberto Miguel Samaniego, 34, known as Walter; Julio Seoapa Tapullima, 23, known as Hairo; Tula Irma Quenta Paniagua, 23, known as Meche; and Jenny Fanny Villalobos Nata, 21. The terrorists are part of the MRTA Southern Regional Committee. This information was provided by Federico Vargas Monteza, commander of the Counterterrorism Section, Secote, of the Juliaca Technical Police. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 May 91 pp 14, 15)

Dircote [Counterterrorism Division] agents on 13 May arrested three Shining Path militants who were collecting a $15,000 "war quota" from a bakery owner in Nana, near Lima. They were identified as German Alejandro Rogatich, 20; Daniel Flores Urbina, 21; and Luis Ricardo Fox Maytan, 30. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 May 91 p 25)

The National Police reported on 14 May that a column of Shining Path terrorists shot and killed Vilcashuaman Province Deputy Prefect Jorge Roman Ochoa, 48, and his mother in this province, 90 km from Ayacucho. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 May p 11)

Shining Path subversives ambushed and shot Villa El Salvador Governor Magno Gomez Alquiaco, 38, and his secretary, Raul Quispe Guillen, 30, in Lima on 14 May. The victims were taken to the Police Hospital where Governor Gomez remains in critical condition while Quispe, who suffered only slight wounds, has returned home. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 27)

Shining Path leader Laura Zambrano Padilla, who is also known as Comrade Meche, has been released on parole after serving seven years, 11 months, and 15 days in prison. She was arrested on charges of participating in several terrorist attacks. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 91 pp 14, 15)

Government, Parties Discuss Pacification Project

PY2505224891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—It was reported today that representatives of various political parties and government officials have signed a declaration expressing their support for the establishment of peace in Peru, and their will to reach a political accord for the country's pacification.

According to local observers, the signing of this document is the first major step toward a joint project among local political parties to accomplish the pacification in the country where political violence has claimed the lives of 22,221 people in the past 11 years.

The document signed on 21 May marked the end of the two meetings between Prime Minister Carlos Torres for the government and representatives of political parties. The representatives were summoned by the government.

United Left Senator Javier Diez Canseco, who decided to leave the meeting, told the press that he did not sign the declaration because he thinks that "conditions for dealing with the matter of pacification do not exist" because the government "has not created them."

Torres said that the declaration commits the government and the political forces to reaching an agreement on pacification because this is a responsibility that concerns the state and all Peruvians.

He reported that proposals on how to carry out joint action to achieve pacification will be analyzed in the next meeting with political parties representatives.

President on Improvement in Tax System

PY2505220691 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 May 91 p 1

[Excerpt] President Alberto Fujimori yesterday announced that there will be no traumatic readjusments because the

government is improving the national tax system to avoid such readjustments. "We need income other than that obtained through fuel-price increases." President Fujimori said at the end of the ceremony celebrating the 440th anniversary of San Marcos University.

The president explained that there are several ways to increase tax collection, and he added: "One way to do it is to increase the general sales tax, which is currently extremely low, from 1 percent of the GDP to 4 percent."

He added that the customs fees can be increased "so as to achieve fiscal balance not only through taxes on the sale of gasoline but also through other taxes."

Fujimori said: "You can see that we no longer resort to sudden increases in gasoline prices, to traumatic readjustments in fuel prices." He added that the prices will eventually go down to their normal level. [passage omitted]

MRTA Official Calls for Red Cross Mediation

PY2505024291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 May 91

[Interview with (Helio Portocarrero), Tupac Amarau Revolutionary Movement representative in Europe, by Radio Cooperativa reporter Jorge Munoz in Geneva; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Munoz] The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] has requested the mediation of the International Red Cross Committee for the release of nine Peruvian policemen who were abducted in La Rioja on 11 and 12 May and to whom the MRTA has granted a prisoner of war status.

In a communique, the MRTA guerrilla group stresses that the domestic conflict currently affecting Peru should adhere to humanitarian standards.

Radio Cooperativa has interviewed (Helio Portocarrero), the MRTA representative in Europe.

[(Portocarrero)] We do not expect the Peruvian Government to comply with this gesture. But we want international public opinion to verify which of the parties in the conflict is upholding the Geneva conventions.

[Munoz] What will you do with the prisoners if the government does not accept the Red Cross mediation?

[(Portocarrero)] We will continue to hold them prisoner because we are convinced that if we release them, the Army will kill them. We are at an impasse. The lives of these nine policemen are in the hands of the government.

[Munoz] In addition to these nine policemen, how many more prisoners does the MRTA have? Are they the only prisoners?

[(Portocarrero)] We have taken some prisoners in the past when we took over some cities, but they have been handed over to the Catholic Church.

But there is another important thing that must be taken into account. Over 1,500 soldiers and Armed Forces personnel are being deployed to this region. They are taking many prisoners. Innocent peasants have disappeared; many are being tortured. In sum, there is a violent situation. This is why we want the Red Cross to oversee this situation so that it can stop the excesses that the Army is perpetrating in this area.

[Munoz] The International Red Cross Latin American Desk has reported that this is the first time that Peruvian insurgents have requested its services. It adds that its representatives in Peru will immediately mediate the release of the kidnapped policemen if the Peruvian Government accepts the Red Cross mediation.

The handling of prisoners through the Red Cross is a common practice in countries experiencing domestic conflicts. The Red Cross is particularly active in Colombia and El Salvador.

Minister Discusses Fishing Dispute With USSR

PY2505233091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 May 91

[Interview with Fishing Minister Felix Canal by July Guevara from Congress in Lima—live]

[Guevara] We are going to talk for a few minutes with Fishing Minister Felix Canal who attended an important ceremony on [words indistinct], political representatives, and congressional leaders. Good afternoon, Minister. What can you tell us about Sevriba's [Soviet fishing firm] debt to Epsep [Peruvian Fishing Services Enterprise]?

[Canal] The problem has two aspects. The first is the $20-million lawsuit that is being heard at the first circuit court; the second concerns our 17.5-percent share of the catch from January to date and part of 1990. The Epsep president told me today that the latter is practically solved. Sevriba will pay part of its debt in cash because we are not interested in the fish they are holding now. The rest will come from the hold of four ships that are currently docking at El Callao port.

[Guevara] But these ships continued fishing after the license was suspended. Will they give up that catch as well?

[Canal] We fined them. They have to pay some $250,000. The Fishing Ministry issued a resolution on the matter. The 860 tons of fish caught during those two days will be returned because the catch belongs to the country. There is also some oil that must be returned.

[Guevara] Will Soviet ships stay in El Callao for the duration of the trial?

[Canal] The agreement does not allow for that. The agreement clearly establishes that ships cannot be detained or seized over profit claims, as is the case of the $20-million lawsuit. Ships must withdraw outside the 200-mile limit.

[Guevara] How many ships are we talking about?

[Canal] There are 20 ships involved. Sixteen of them are included on the list that the Epsep president showed me today when requesting the ships be authorized to leave for outside the 200-mile limit. The remaining four ships will stay because they have fish that must be handed over according to a schedule that extends over four to five days.

[Guevara] What are the chances that the country will sign new fishing agreements?

[Canal] We are evaluating the situation. We want to be prudent because there are signs that our biological reserves are being depleted. We think a fewer ships should be involved because a 20-ship fleet is too much.

[Guevara] Are we going to renegotiate the agreement with the Soviet Union?

[Canal] All countries can renegotiate within the framework of our laws. This means paying taxes. This means that the capital and equipment can be used as guarantee, that it can be seized if the firm does not fulfill its part of the agreement. These things have been a problem before. They are legitimate requests because Peruvian firms have to fullfill those requirements.

[Guevara] Are we currently conducting any formal negotiations with any country?

[Canal] The Yugoslav ambassador has talked to us. Peruvian entrepreneurs have brought a Cuban Government proposal. The Korean Government has also shown interest. The Korean ambassador has visited our offices twice. We are evaluating those proposals but we think that the fleet should be smaller, not 20 ships of the Soviet fleet's capacity.

[Guevara] Thank you, Mr. Canal.

Guyana

Minimum Wage Hike To Offset ERP Announced

FL2705185291 Bridgetown CANA in English
1302 GMT 27 May 91

[Report by Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 27, CANA—The Guyana President Desmond Hoyte says his government's substantially foreign-funded programme to revitalise the stressed economy is working, but needs the population's continued patience and understanding.

'We see all around us very encouraging indicators. There are signs of increasing dynamism and confidence and the recognition of the fact that at long last, we now have a splendid opportunity to transform into real wealth our country's great potential, of which we have talked so long and at great length,' Hoyte said in an address to mark the 25th anniversary of Guyana's independence from Britain. The Guyanese president said that the country had come too far to turn back; had borne too many burdens to give up now.

'I simply ask your patience and perseverance a little longer. Even as I speak to you, the prize is within our grasp,' he declared.

The so-called Economic Revovery Programme [ERP], tied to support programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, has involved consecutive devaluations of the Guyana dollar, large-scale debt rescheduling, government expenditure cuts, and a reopening of investment in key sectors to foreign entrepreneurs.

Government has concluded a three-year enhanced structural adjustment facility with the IMF for some U.S. 81.5 million dollars and a 12-month standby arrangement with the World Bank for SDR's (Special Drawing Rights) 49.5 million. The World Bank has also approved U.S. 62.8 million dollars in direct financial assistance to Guyana.

In his broadcast, Hoyte announced that his government had taken a decision in principle to raise the minimum wage substantially and effect consequential increases during the third quarter of this year. He said that the government realised that the workers were bearing the 'brunt' of the adjustment measures under the ERP, an apparent reference to financial pressures caused by astronomical price hikes which followed the currency devaluations.

Hoyte said his administration had been carrying out 'meticulous analyses' of revenue and expenditure trends and on this basis was now in a position to make some reasonably confident projections.

The Guyanese leader gave no idea of the level of the proposed increase, but warned that there was still need for prudent fiscal management to avoid any measures which were likely to be inflationary, or counter-productive. The necessary work to effect the payout in the third quarter of 1991 has already begun, the president said.

Unions Oppose Bill To Curb Utilities Strikes

FL2705183591 Bridgetown CANA in English
1959 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 26, CANA - A third Guyanese labour organisation has called for the suspension of a bill before Parliament seeking to ban strikes in the utilities sector.

The Public Service Union (PSU) joined the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) in denouncing the Public Utilities Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration Bill 1991.

The bill, proposing steep fines and stiff jail terms for unions which call strikes, and workers who take part, followed a recent five-day electricity workers strike called by NAACIE. The strike almost crippled the national power supply.

NAACIE said the 'obnoxious and oppressive' piece of legislation was aimed at curbing trade union militancy.

Antistrike Bill Withdrawn

FL3005012091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2220 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 29, CANA—The Guyana Government Wednesday backed off, at least temporarily, from pushing into law a bill to discourage strikes in the essential services. Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Keith Massiah told the National Assembly that government "graciously consented" to set aside the bill until it could be studied by unions and perhaps discussed by union and government representatives.

The public utility undertakings and public health services arbitration bill, increasing the fines and jail terms for strikers or strike agitators, was scheduled for final passage through the assembly Wednesday. Trade unions objected to the bill and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) umbrella body urged government to defer the legislation until the provisions could be properly studied by the unions. One union which recently backed an electricity workers strike accused government of seeking to undermine union militancy.